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Roll 9

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

COMMUNICATIONS FROM SPECIAL AGENTS

Volume 9

April 17, 1820 - June 19, 1828

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The volume microcopied on this roll has the following backstrip title: "9 / Special Agents / 1818-1826 / Jacob Lewis / Samuel D. Forsyth / Edward Wyer / J. R. Poinsett / Thomas Randall / Alexander McRae / Thos. B. Robertson / Daniel P. Cook / Robt. M. Harrison / Department / of State." No communications from Lewis and Poinsett are included in the volume, though lists of their letters, to be found elsewhere among the records of the Department of State, have been inserted. The volume contains the following documents:

From Samuel D. Forsyth, agent to Venezuela: letters from New York (April 17, 1820), Angostura (June 21 - September 22, 1820), Apure (January 7, 1821), Angostura (May 24 and June 14, 1821), and Caracas (October 24, 1821), with lists of other letters from Forsyth, not included in this volume but to be found elsewhere among the records of the Department of State.

From Edward Wyer, agent to Hayti and Santo Domingo, sent to secure indemnity for the seizure of property of American citizens during the reign of Christophe: letters from Cape Henry (February 7, 1821), Cape Haitien (February 27, 1821), Port au Prince (March 12 and 19, 1821), and Washington (April 10, 1821), with lists of other letters from Wyer, not included in this volume but to be found elsewhere among the records of the Department of State.

From Thomas Randall, special agent of the United States for commerce and seamen in Puerto Rico and Cuba, commissioned also to receive at Havana certain archives of Florida: letters from Havana (May 7 - October 15, 1824) and Washington (March 21, 1825), in addition to a list of his other letters, not included in this volume but to be found elsewhere among the records of the Department of State.

From Alexander McRae, "Secret agent to observe and report upon the proceedings of the Congress of European Powers expected to discuss the affairs of the South American States": letters from Paris (April 16, 1824, and November 3, 1824) and London (August 9, 1824, and January 4, 1825). An unsigned letter to McRae in the handwriting of John Quincy Adams (August 6, 1824) is also included.

From T. B. Robertson: letter dated at Magnolia, near Baton Rouge, January 19, 1826, in which Robertson declined an appointment as agent to Cuba.

From Daniel P. Cook, confidential agent of the United States to Cuba: letters from Washington (March 12, 1827), Baltimore (March 16, 1827), and, sent posthumously, from Kentucky (undated). Letters from Ninian Edwards (Belleville, Illinois, November 1, 1827, and January 2, 1828) announcing Cook's death after his return to the United States are also included.

From Robert Monroe Harrison: "An Account of a Mission or Tour of Observation and Inquiry throughout the British West India Colonies. By Command of the President of the United States. Commenced the 28th July 1827 and Closed the 2d June 1828. By Robert Monroe Harrison, Consul of the United States, for the Island of Saint Bartholomew." The volume thus lettered on the cover, and bound in heavy paper, is not a narrative or report but a book containing copies of Harrison's communications to the Department of State. The first letter is dated at Antigua, July 19, 1827; the last, at Saint Bartholomew, June 19, 1828. The letters include detailed reports on Antigua, Dominica, and Barbados (August 16, 1827), on British Guiana (November 17, 1827), on Tobago and Grenada (March 2, 1828), and on Jamaica (April 2, 1828), and less detailed accounts of other British Islands in the Leeward and Windward groups. A list of Harrison's other letters, to be found elsewhere among the records of the Department of State, has also been included.

It has not always been possible for the camera to reproduce perfectly the ends of lines next to the binding. A complete reading of any lines thus affected will be furnished by The National Archives upon request.

In referring to this volume, scholars may wish to indicate that it is among the records of the Department of State in The National Archives. Since the folios of each agent's letters are numbered separately, citation by folio number might cause confusion. The following form of citation is therefore suggested: State Department, Special Agents, vol. 9, letter from Daniel P. Cook, March 16, 1827.

J 30682 N.J.
735

JACOB LEWIS

FEBRUARY 7, 1818

SANTO DOMINGO

(See, Vol. 4, Special Agents)

S. D. FORSYTH

DECEMBER 17, 1822

COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF ARMAMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Forsyth, Samuel D.
1820 - 1823

See Miscellaneous Letters
May 6 1823 - Caracas
March 10 1820

S. D. Forsyth —

Confidential

On Board the Brig Enterprize

N. York 17th April 1820

Sir,

I had the honor to address you through J. Monroe Esqr. on the 15th inst. in answer to his of the 10th to me, and to advise him that I had drawn on the Department for the Amt. of Duplicate Bills of Articles bought by me in Baltimore & Philadelphia, while under the impression I was going to be employed by the Executive abroad.

I am fully satisfied with the mode adopted by the Department of State, in transmitting a letter to the Govrnment of Venezuela through their agent Mr. Irvine and have no doubt but that Govt. will forward it with additional recommendation in my favor.

Permit me to observe that I really regret very much that I did not more fully understand you the last interviews at Washington.

In 1813 when Mr. William Shaler, was on his way from Natchitoches to the Seat of Govrnment he and myself formed a plan for myself to proceed

James Monroe Esq.
President of the U States
&c &c &c

proceed to South America, with the sole view of satisfying the state & progress of the Revolution there, and to place myself in a situation there to be serviceable to the U States, when the crisis of the Revolution there might make such services necessary.

I have never for one moment lost sight of this plan of Mr Shaler, and as far as I am the confidence of Mr Shaler, I really did suppose that my career there was fully known & answerable to you.

I have never held any situation of profit under the government of Algiers, and my relation of Secretary terminated with my leaving and your confidence, and I am only sorry that neither the one or the other State can be cleared by me.

When Mr Todd comes to Amsterdam, I hope to have it in my power to render some services to him, and then shall forward you a detail of my career for the last six years.

Mr Shaler will be paid and charged to me in Acct and, I wish he may send the Acct to me 492.

The

The sea is now very rough and you must excuse this shrewd, and believe me

Yours truly devoted to you

L. F. Forsyth

Forsyth, Sam. D. - N. York 17 April 1820

(to the Pres. Confidential)

Rect 26 April

~~Hon. Joseph~~

on b'd the Ship at New York - 17th April 1820.

Read 26 th.

S. D. Forsyth —

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Recd 19 July.

Augustus 21st June 1820

Sir,

I arrived here on the 17th Inst after having had a passage of only 27 days from New York to this city, during which time we had very fine weather, and enjoyed constantly very excellent health.

I have taken the liberty to post under Cover to you, a file of the latest Gazettes we have received from Santa Fee, which are up to the 8th of March and a file of the Gazettes of this City up to the present date: from these Gazettes, you will see the very flourishing state of the Infant Republic of Columbia.

I have been so generally engaged since my arrival in Angustura, in dispatching the Brig in which I came to this Country, that I have not had time to visit Gen.l Bolivar, but intend doing so in the Course of the next month if the wet season will permit of Boats ascending the River, which is very difficult to effect at this season of the year, in consequence of the very

Copied

Hon.ble
John Quincy Adams
Esq.r Sec.y of State
&c &c &c

rapid current of the Rivers Meta, & Apure.

From Dispatches 2nd. this day from the Head Quarters of Gen.l Bolivar, which is at present in the Village of San Cristoval, in the Province of Merida, from Mr. Murray Consul/ it would appear, that the Division of Irish Troops under Gen.l Mariano Montilla, now on the Coast of Santa Martha/ are in Communication with the main body of the Army under the immediate Command of Gen.l Bolivar, and that it is expected the whole Coast of New Granada will very soon be under the Republican flag. The Division of the South, intended to operate in the Provinces of Quito, have also been very successful, while the whole of the interior of New Granada remains perfectly quiet, and the Gold, and Platina Mines, are in full operation and regular remittances reach this every three months from Santa Fee, for the use of Govt.

The 2nd Division Irish Troops, under the Command of Gen.l Power, one of Bolivar's Officers left this yesterday for the Main Army about 700 Strong, and will be found in every thing. The only wants of this Government at present are Arms, and Ammunition, and if they could be bought of a good quality, high prices would be paid for them, in gold, and Silver dollars.

Gen.l Lambert arrived here some days

days since from the Army, and has been chosen Vice President of the Department of Venezuela, as Dr Rocio, to the office of Vice President of the Republic of Columbia which has given very general satisfaction, as Genl Soublett is a man of strong mind, and great energy, and decision.

Dr Lea, who left this in February last for the U. States, has proceeded to England, in consequence of information &c. in St Thomas, that the Congress of the U. States had adjourned their session in the month of march. This sudden determination of Dr Lea, to proceed to Europe, has not been very satisfactory to the Heads of Govt here, as they are very anxious to cultivate a good understanding with the U. S.

I request you will present my respects to the President, and believe me to be sir, very respectfully

your Obt Servt

J. D. Forsyth

Forsyth, Sam. D. — Angostura, 20 June 1820.

Rec. 19 July.

Mr Forsyth Angostura

S. D. Forsyth —

5.

Augusta Geo. 21. Augt. 1820

Sir,

On the 18th ultimo I had the honor of sent under Cover to the Department of State a file of the Correo del Orinoco" to St Thomas, and I now again take the liberty to forward you a file including the dates of the 29th. ult. and up to this present date, for your perusal, as they contain many very important articles on the present State of the affairs of this new Republic. I regret exceedingly that I am not able to forward a file of the New Granada Gazette but I could not procure them in time for this Conveyance, but almost every article of intent has been copied into the "Correo del Orinoco"

The mail from the Kingdom of New Granada, has just arrived and brings the very important information to the Government here of the defeat of a Royal Division by General Morillo, in the vicinity of Cartagena and that the General has his head Quarters within three Leagues

I the Hon.ble
John Quincy Adams
Secty of State
Washington

leagues of the City of Carthagena having previously taken entire possession of the whole of the River of Magdelena from the Sea up to the City of Santa Fé, and leaving the Squadron of Admiral Brion on the Coast of Santa Martha, which place was expected to surrender in a few days after the date of Morillos dispatches.

Gen.l Bolivar, Hile remains in Saint Christoval, and will not remove his head Quarters before the end of November, when he will march to the attack of Caracas with all his forces, where Gen.l Morillo Hile continues to keep his head Quarters.

A Courier has this moment arrived from Barcellona, with the news of the evacuation of that Province, by the Royalists under the Command of General Arana, and while I am writing this, they are firing a Salute from the different Forts of this City for the news that has just arrived of Colonel Morales, and his whole Regiment having deserted over to General Bermudez: This movement on the part of the Royalists, is considered here as a complete victory of opinion, and I have just been told by General Soublett that he expects to hear of the rising of the inhabitants of Caracas, before General Bolivar can possibly take up his line of march for that City

J.P

It was generally supposed here by some of the best informed men of the Country, when I arrived from the States in May last, that the majority of the Patriots would be in favour of having the Constitutional Government of Spain, and remain as they had been before the Commencement of the Revolution in 1810 an integral part of the Spanish Monarchy, but if your Excellency will peruse the three last Numbers of the "Correo del Orinoco," I am confident you will think with me that nothing, but absolute and Sovereign Independence can satisfy the people of the United States of Columbia, and I am confident that the Arms of the Patriots must triumph in every part of Venezuela, New Granada in the ensuing Campaign

From Letters which I have perused from St Thomas I learn that Col: Todd, arrived there on the 1st of July, and that he would proceed in a few days after the date of my letters, which was the 6th Inst: for the Island of Margarita, and from thence by the first opportunity for this City, where I am confident he will be rec'd with distinguished attention by the Government and all Classes of the people and Correspondence of the President of the United States with General Bivar (in Washington) has made

a

a very favourable, and strong impression here in favour of the U. States.

I suppose Your Excellency will have received the information of the revolt on the part of the Irish Troops, brought out from from Ireland by Genl Devereaux. The whole of them was embarked on board transports in the Port of Rio de la Plata, by General Montilla, and sent to Jamaica, but the Duke of Manchester would not let them land, and they have not been heard from since, but it is generally supposed they have gone to the U. States, or more likely, to the East of Spain, where some of General Devereaux's Agents wished them to go, and where they will all perish should they ever attempt to land. Trusting that Your Excellency will pardon the intrusion, and believe me to be actuated by the best motives, I remain with sentiments of respect for the President and yourself, your Obt Servt

J. D. Forsyth

Forsyth J. D. Augustus

21 Aug: 1820 Recd 10 Nov.

News-6 news-papers.

S. D. Forsyth

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Recd 14 Nov.

Augustus 22.nd September 1820

Sir

By the arrival of the Schooner Betsey
Ann from Baltimore, I have had the honor of receiving
your circular dispatch of the 1st Ult. calling my attention
to the claims of Capt William Lane, on the Republic
of Colombia, for a cargo of flour, forcibly taken from
on board the Schooner Betsy Ann in the month
of June last, while lying in the Harbour of
Rio Hacha, by Colonel Montilla. In the absence
of Col. C. S. Todd, being requested by Capt L.
to take Charge of his Papers have awaited
on the Secy. of State Gen Raphael Ravenga
in company with Capt Lane, and presenting
the Certificates of Col. Montilla, requested that
the Amt might be paid immediately after
the Secy. had examined the accounts and Certifi-
cates of Montilla, he requested me to leave
them with him in order that they might
be shewn to the Vice President & Secretary of
General

Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams Esq.r
Secy of State
&c &c &c

General Comstock and that an answer should be forwarded to me in the Course of the day. About three hours afterwards I rec.d from the Cash.r at the Treasury, for Three hundred and fifty dolls. the Amt. of twenty four Barrels of flour sold by Capt. Lowe & Col. Mantilla; and a Government Bond, for four Thousand Three hundred and fifty four dollars, the Amt. of the flour favorably taken from the Baltimore Bond, made payable in six months from date, with interest from the date of the Certificates of Mantilla, and Capt. Lowe approving of this arrangement, it was accepted. I then waited at the Treasury with the Check for $350 and on for answer to my application, that there was no money in the Treasury, but it should be paid in a day or two as they were expecting money from the Custom House. In consequence of this answer from the Treasurer, I again waited on Mr. Ramsay, and informing him that his bill at the Treasury had not been paid, asked him what could be done for Capt. Lowe who was then ready for sea, not having been able to sell his Cargo here. The Cash. then told me that he knew before he sent me the Check that there was not any money in the Treasury, but as they were in the receipt of of many every day from the Custom House

he

he wished the Orders to be presented to the Treasurer
in order that the first money Exd might be
paid to Capt Lowe. requesting at the same time
that Capt L would wait a few days for
the money; but as there was no certainty in the
money being ready in so short a time, Capt Lowe
would not wait, but has left the whole of the
papers with me for collection, and will sail
to day, or early to morrow morning for St Thomas

I shall do all I can to obtain payment
for Capt L, the moment the Government has the means
in their possession, but such has been the condition
of the roads in the interior, that we have
not had any Commerce for the last two
months with Pto Rico. The rainy season is now
past, and we may expect Merchandize very
soon from the Kingdom of Granada, when
I am assured the whole amt due Capt Lowe
shall be paid, even should the loss of this
months not have occurred.

The mail from the city of Pto Rico came
in last night and brings the important intelligence
of the occupation of both the Provinces of Popayan
and Antioquia, by the Patriot Troops, and that
Gen. Valdez has drawn the whole of his forces
into the valleys of Patos with the object of
attacking the Provinces and Capital of Quito, the
latter place he expected to enter without

opposition

Expedition. Accounts have also been received from Col. Mariano Montilla up to the 26th ult. at which time he had his headquarters in the Pedregal, only six leagues from Carthagena. Col. Montilla has requested to be relieved from the Command in consequence of bad health, and for this purpose Gen. Marino, formerly the Commandant General of the eastern division, has been ordered from Gen. Bolivar's Head Quarters and in the meanwhile, Gen. Bolivar has gone himself to Carthagena to direct the operations there, but has assured the Commissioners of Govt. at this place, that he will be again in Caracas in the month of October, & that in consequence the troops for the city of Caracas which city, I am disposed to think will be obstinately without resistance, as they fear the consequences of the English troops entering as victors. The recent conduct of the Irish Legion at Rio Hacha has induced Gen. Bolivar to disband the Legion: Countries dominion in Europe, as it is found almost impossible to keep the foreign troops together in the country without full pay and rations, and the want of Arms and clothing, has obliged the Government to appropriate all the means they possess in the moment to that object.

The Election for members for the general

congress to meet at Cucuta, in January, has taken place, and as far as the returns have been received, a very prudent choice has been made. Some attempts have been made to get some of the English Gentlemen into the Congress, but they have not succeeded.

The affairs of this Republic, may be considered at this moment in a more flourishing condition than they have ever been for the last ten years, and should no little Jealousies arise between Cundinamarca & St. Granada, their Independence is safe, as you will see from the Letters of the Correspondence between the Royal Gen.l Morillo, and Gen.l Bolivar, and which you will find in the inclosed Gaz.ttes.

Dispatches have been rec.d from D.r Read dated London 14.th Inst. The D.r has been very politely received by Lord Castlereagh, and is much flattered with the prospects of having the Independance of Columbia acknowledged by Great Britain. So Lord Castlereagh has made him believe. The D.r has sent to Paris for his family, and will make his residence for the present in London.

This Government has sent very ample powers to Holland, to endeavour (if possible to make a loan of three or four millions of dollars.

of Dollars, but from what I have been able to glean from Mr Ronaya, the prospects are not very good. If Carthagena, and the City of Caracas should fall into their hands they might then negociate a loan, but untile then, I fear they will not succeed.

The National Brig Meta, is now taking in her Cargo, and will sail in a few days for the U. States, when I shall be able to send you a file of the St Fee Gazettes, which will give a correct idea of the situation of the Armies in the Kingdom, and the sentiments that govern the people of the interior of the Country.

Dr Rogers has just 2d a letter from Col. Todd, dated Margaritta 7th inst. covering certified Copies of his appointment by the President of the U. States, as Agent for Commerce and Seamen for the Republic of Columbia. Col. Todd, has not enjoyed very good health in Margaritta, and will remain there for sometime to see what will be the result of the present Campaign, as he would prefer going to Caracas, to coming to this place at this season of the year.

I cannot Conclude without requesting you will tender my best respects to the President, with many thanks for the generous

generous manner he has acted towards me
and to spare him of my entire devotion
to advance in every way in my power
the interest of the U. States, and to promote
a good understanding between the two Countries.

This letter has been written in great
haste, and must therefore beg you will
pardon the many errors both in Grammar
and Spelling, and believe me to be with the
highest consideration of respect your
devoted Obl. Servant

L. D. Joseph

Correo del Orinoco.

Núm. 78. Angostura: Sábado 2 de Setiembre de 1820—10.° Tom. III.

La conocemos: ved nuevas pruebas.

El Comandante-general y todas las tropas, que sostenian el partido del rey en la Provincia de Barcelona, se han unido à los Libertadores de Colombia.

De trescientos hombres que sacó de Onoto el anterior Comandante-general de aquella Provincia, Coronel Arana, doscientos habian abandonado la causa del rey.

Los habitantes de Tucupío y del Valle-de-la-Pascua, á quienes se unieron los desertores de Arana, han jurado fidelidad á la Constitucion provisoria de Colombia; y la defienden.

El Canton de Guaca, y el Pueblo de Canagua, en la Provincia de Barínas, han abandonado igualmente á los Opresores, y unídose á los Defensores de la Patria.

Los habitantes de la Provincia de Cartagena se apresuraban á alistarse entre los Defensores de la Independencia Colombiana.

Se dice ya, y hay sobrados motivos para creer que el Canton de Guanape, en la Provincia de Carácas, donde hay trescientos combatientes, ha imitado á sus hermanos de Barcelona, de Tucupío, Valle-de-la-Pascua, Guaca y Canagua.

Españoles que combatís, y que os arruinaís por oprimir á Pueblos que conocen sus Derechos, y quieren recobrarlos, reconoced, y convenceos de nuestra invariable determinacion. La preponderancia de vuestras armas en algun lugar podrá arrancar del Colombiano, de todo Americano, una declaracion que repugna à su corazon; pero el influjo de vuestras armas es pasagero, y la voz del corazon habla de continuo. Os lo repetimos: hemos jurado ser independientes y libres; nuestros juramentos son mas sagrados que nuestra existencia; y la prolongacion de la guerra solo exigirá de nuestra parte, para terminarla, sacrificios muy inferiores á los que ya hemos hecho. Sed por fin cuerdos.

☞ *Hemos recibido copia del Oficio del General Morillo á S.E. el Libertador Presidente, y de la contestacion de S.E. Los Comisionados que tanto tiempo ha se anunciaron, no habian llegado todavía al Cuartel-general Libertador. Publicarémos aquellos oficios en nuestro próximo* Correo.

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Fragmento de un oficio del Señor General en Gefe del Egército de Oriente à S.E. el Vice-Presidente del Departamento.

Excmo. Señor: Partes posteriores que he tenido del Coronel Barreto y del Capitan José Antonio García Comandante, que era por los Españoles del Pueblo de Tucupío, y el cual se me ha presentado personalmente, me certifican que la columna que sacó Arana de Onoto solo constaba de trescientos infantes del batallon de la Reina; que en este Pueblo dejó de guarnicion veinte; que los enfermos y municiones los embarcó en Piritú para La Guaira, y que su marcha la hizo tan precipitada para Calabozo, que no mostraba en ella mas que una vergonzosa fuga, pues que veía con el mayor disimulo la escandalosa desercion que experimentaba, y el robo de las bestias que se le hacía en Tucupío, donde permaneció muy pocos momentos, y en donde no se le presentó un solo hombre. Que à su salida de este punto llevaba ménos de doscientos, y que de ellos se desertaron en su trânsito à Orituco tres cornetas, y otras partidas que llegaron al mismo Tucupío, de modo que ya no le acompañaban sino ciento y un pico de hombres, hijos todos de los Valles-de-Aragua.

El Señor Coronel Barreto lo persiguió mas de dos leguas; pero como el camino era malo, y ya Arana llevaba mucha ventaja tuvo à bien retirarse.

Al Señor General Zaraza lo destiné tambien al Potrero con pliegos para Torrealva, é instruccion de lo que debia practicar en caso que éste accediese à mis solicitudes, y oportunamente comunicaré à V.E. el resultado de todo.

El Pueblo de Tucupío ha jurado voluntariamente la Constitucion de Venezuela con las mayores demostraciones de todo su vecindario que se presentó de los montes despues que Arana lo evacuó. Y mas de cien Indios, porcion de criollos del mismo pueblo y de los desertores de Arana lo guarnecen, y están decididos à no dejarlo pisar mas por los tiranos: asi me lo han prometido, pidiéndome por Comandante al Teniente-Coronel Soler, que ya ha marchado à encargarse de aquel mando.

Todo, Excmo. Señor, presenta el mejor aspecto, y ya se puede llamar libre la Provincia de Barcelona, por el abandono que Arana ha hecho de ella, y la desicion de todos los Criollos à no pelear mas por la causa de los Españoles. Igual cosa me prometo de los Pueblos de la de Carácas, porque nuestra opinion se ha aumentado mucho, y Morillo ha perdido todo su crédito aun para con los mismos Españoles, por resistencia que hizo à jurar la Constitucion de aquella monarquia.

Otro oficio del mismo à S.E.

Excmo. Señor: Tengo la satisfaccion de anunciar à V.E. hárberse puesto bajo las banderas de la Repûblica el Teniente-Coronel Hilario Torrealva, que por la salida de Arana habia quedado de Comandante-general de aquellos Pueblos. A él mismo lo he dejado con el mando de las tropas del Potrero, y las de Onoto, que no quisieron acompañar à aquel gefe Español, y al Señor General Monagas, que se encuentra alli, he librado las órdenes que me han parecido convenientes à establecer la opinion, aumentar su Division, y organizar la Provincia de Barcelona, de su mando, que ya se haya libre.

Los oficios y cartas particulares que incluyo le impondrán à V.E. de la buena conducta de Torrealva y del buen efecto que han producido las comunicaciones tenidas con él para que abrazara nuestra causa. Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años. Cuartel-general en Iguana á 21 de Agosto de 1820. 10.°—Excmo. Señor.—El General en Gefe del Egército de Oriente. =*José Francisco Bermúdez.*= Excmo. Señor Vice-Presidente del Departamento de Venezuela.

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Oficio del Señor Comandante-General de la Provincia de Barcelona à S.E. el Vice-Presidente del Departamento.

Excmo. Señor: Tengo la honra de noticiar à S.E. la presentacion del Comandante Hilario Torrealva, que verificó el 19 del corriente en el sitio del Carito, en compañia de varios oficiales que trajo consigo. Este Ciudadano ha cumplido cuanto ofreció con tanto entusiasmo, que ha puesto à mis órdenes cuanto contiene este sitio del Potrero al mismo momento de mi llegada à él que ha sido hoy como à las 4 y media de la tarde.

El no haber oficiado à V.E. el mismo 19, como hice al Sr. General en Gefe del Egército

de Oriente, fué por hacerlo desde aqui, con mas extension.

El 7 de éste, se marcho el Español Arana de Onoto con direccion à Orituco, y segun he sido informado al momento de mi llegada por el práctico que de aqui llevó, se le han desertado en tanto número los Criollos, que al regresar el práctico, solo le quedaban como ciento de ellos, no ha habiendo ido éste sino hasta Tucupio.—Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años. Cuartel-general Divisionario en el Potrero de Quebrada-honda à 21 de Agosto de 1820.= Excmo. Señor.—*José T. Monagas.*

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Carta del Teniente-Coronel HILARIO TORREALVA à S.E. el Vice-Presidente del Departamento de Venezuela.

Potrero de Quebrada-honda 21 de Agosto de 1820.—Excmo. Señor: Mi respetado General: hoy hacen tres dias que he tenido el honor de haberme puesto à las órdenes del Señor General Monagas, y unime con mis demàs Conciudadanos à la gran familia de Colombia: V.E. puede considerar el regocijo de que estará colmado mi corazon viéndome unido à mis hermanos: en este concepto ofrezco à V.E. la inutilidad de mi persona que confio la empleará en el servicio que juzgue pueda serle útil à mi Patria.

Espero que V.E. se tendrà la bondad de hacerle este mismo ofrecimiento al E.S. Libertador Presidente de la República de Colombia, contando àmbos con la sinceridad de la oferta que cumplirá con la mayor exactitud su afectísimo servidor, Q.S.M.B.—Excmo. Señor.—*Hilario Torrealva.*

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PROCLAMA.

JOSE FRANCISCO BERMUDEZ,

Del Orden de Libertadores, General de Division de los Egércitos de Colombia, y en Gefe del de Oriente de Venezuela, &c. &c.

AL EGERCITO DE SU MANDO.

Soldados: Los Estandartes de Colombia que en medio de los peligros, y de la indigencia mas espantosa habeis sabido conservar, acaban de desplegarse en los Pueblos de *Tucupío*, *Valle-de-la-Pascua*, *Potrero*, y *Onoto*, y dentro de poco tiempo los veréis tremolar en los muros de Carácas. Vuestros hermanos, que seducidos por los Opresores combatian contra nosotros, han abandonado à aquellos asesinos, y los ven ya con el honor que les inspira el desengaño. Todos se han armado contra la tirania, y ansian por ayudaros à perfeccionar la grande obra que principiasteis. Los verdugos de vuestra Patria huyen con espanto à las orillas del oceano para salvarse del justo castigo que merecen sus crimenes, y mas de mil hombres que encierran los Pueblos que acaban de recobrar su libertad, son otros tantos compañeros vuestros para el total exterminio de los que queriendo dominaros, no abrazen el partido de la fuga. La paz y el reposo, premio de vuestros trabajos van ya à disfrutarse, y vosotros sereis bendecidos por vuestros hijos y por la mas remota posteridad. Constancia pues, y llevad con la alegria que inspira la libertad, las penalidades de la presente campaña.—Cuartel-general en Iguana à 20 de Agosto de 1820.—*José Francisco Bermùdez.*

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" PRINCIPIA, NON HOMINES."

Señor General: La gratitud es una virtud que hace recomendable al hombre en la sociedad, y ella se resentiria, si no recibiese este justo homenage. El brindis que à la memoria de los Españoles que han muerto defendiendo la Libertad de Colombia, y à los que como yo han sobrevivido en su servicio, fué consagrado en la capital de Angostura el 5 de Julio, dia de los mas gloriosos de nuestra emancipacion, ha llenado de gozo mi corazon, y el de los demàs Españoles subalternos del Egército del mando de V.S.—Sirvase pues V.S. transmitir al Supremo Gobierno nuestros sentimientos, aseguràndole que consideramos por muy pequeño sacrificio derramar nuestra sangre, y perder nuestra existencia, si esto es necesario para consolidar nuestro Gobierno; y poner en egercicio el sagrado Código de sus Leyes, opuestas diametralmente à las tiranas que nos presenta la nacion española en su Constitucion. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años. Cuartel-general en Iguana á 10 de Agosto de 1820.—El Mayor en comision.—*Rafael Torra.*—Señor General en Gefe del Egército de Oriente.

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Fragmento de una nota del Sr. General Paez à S.E. el Vice-Presidente de Venezuela.

Por último hubo de decidirse Guaca por la PATRIA, y renunciar à la vida sérvil. El Comandante de aquel partido lo reunió todo, y se separó de los Españoles. Lo mismo hizo el Pueblo de Canagua, que es tan interesante como Guaca.

CUNDINAMARCA.

ORDEN GENERAL.

"Cuartel-general del Rosario à 20 de Julio de 1820.—Al Excmo. Señor Vice-Presidente del Departamento de Venezuela.—En la órden general de hoy, art. 26, se ha insertado lo siguiente: " El Coronel Córdova, despues que tomó à Mompox, marchó sobre Tenerife y Barranca, que tambien occupó. La toma de estos puntos ha costado al enemigo mas de 300 hombres, la pérdida de once buques de guerra, y de muchos fusiles, municiones y otros elementos. El Comandante-general de la Division expedicionaria, Coronel Montilla, con una parte de sus fuerzas, marchó de Barranquilla à Savana-larga, donde sorprendió las avanzadas del Teniente-coronel Romero que habia salido de la plaza de Cartagena con 200 hombres del regimiento de Leon, que replegaron inmediatamente, y fueron perseguidos hasta Turbaco, à inmediaciones de aquella plaza, lo que lo pusó en tal confusion y consternacion, que cerraron las puertas de la ciudad, suponiendo à nuestras tropas en Ternera, y para impedir que los habitantes la desamparasen, como estaban dispuestos à egecutarlo. Los Coroneles Montilla y Córdova se reunieron en la Soledad. Los habitantes del Magdalena han recibido à sus Libertadores con los brazos abiertos, alistándose voluntariamente en la Division del Coronel Montilla que se ha aumentado con mas de 700 hombres del pais, llenos del mayor entusiasmo. El Coronel Lara està en comunicacion con el Coronel Montilla. Todas estas fuerzas obrando de concierto son formidables, sobre todo luego que hayan recibido el refuerzo de los batallones de Honda, del Cauca, y los restos del de Antioquia, que están en marcha ácia el bajo Magdalena. Nuestra Escuadra bloquea los puertos de Santa-Marta y Cartagena, y nuestros puestos avanzados están en Turbaco. La Escuadrilla Sútil del Magdalena, compuesta de todos los buques de guerra que àntes lo cubrian, se ha aumentado con las flecheras de Margarita, y con los buques que la actividad del Almirante Brion ha hecho botar al agua despues de la toma de Barranquilla. Todos los mas montan piezas de calibre desde 12 hasta 32. Se ha establecido una Corte de Almirantazgo en el punto de Barranquilla. Las Provincias de Santa-Marta y Cartagena estàn perfectamente libres exceptuando solo las capitales, que estàn bloqueadas, y bien pronto se rendiràn à las Armas de Colombia. Asi, todo el Departamènto de Cundinamarca puede llamarse perfectamente libre. Las comunicaciones expeditas del Magdalena asi militares como mercantiles, han dado à la República una ventaja inmensa que no es fácil calcularse. Los Estados recibirán todo género de armas y equipo, el comercio serà reanimado, y la industria darà nueva vida à estas bellas Provincias del centro de Colombia."

Lo que comunico à V.E. de órden del Libertador, para que V.E. lo haga saber à las Divisiones del Departamento de su mando.—Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años.—Por ausencia del Sub-gefe.—*José Gabriel Perez*, Ayudante-General.

CARTA DE UN AMERICANO

A UN AMIGO SUYO.

No hay en el dia, mi querido amigo, rincon en la Peninsula, no hay pueblo por miserable que sea en donde no se hable de la *santa insurreccion de España*, y por incidente la *criminal insurreccion de América*. Este admirable contraste está enteramente acorde con las providencias del Gobierno, á pesar de que en la gaceta de la isla se nos diga que las ideas del año de 20 son muy diversas que las del año de 10; pues de nada nos sirven tales ideas, que las hay, como no lo dudo, miéntras veamos al Gobierno seguir con empeño su antiguo y constante sistema de mantener aquellos desgraciados países en la opresion con la fuerza de las armas. La libertad de la España, su santa insurreccion, su felicidad se van à anunciar à las Américas del mismo modo que en la desgraciada Cádiz se proclamó el 10 de Marzo el nombre sagrado del Rey; esto es, con el cañon y la punta de la bayoneta. Se aprontan barcos, se arman cañoneras, se nombran oficiales y soldados para que vayan à llevar el ramo de oliva, y sostener las dulces y benéficas medidas que por cuatro años ha tomado el *sábio* y *piadoso* Morillo en la Costafirme; medidas tan oportunas que como se le sigan remitiendo semejantes auxilios, en otros cuatro años dejará aquellos fértiles países, no solo limpios de la maldita manía de amar la libertad como en Europa, sino hasta de personas que la puedan desear en lo sucesivo. Es un espectáculo bello y magnífico, mi amigo, ver en el siglo de las luces y de la filosofia repetirse, excederse las escenas sangrientas del siglo diez y seis. Por fin en aquel siglo heróico las ideas eran consiguientes: el génio de la nacion, sus luces, sus costumbres y la opinion de la Europa estaban de acuerdo con las aventuras á paises lejanos; y como no se puede despojar á otro de lo suyo sino con la fuerza, las violencias y atrocidades que se cometieron eran una consecuencia necesaria del sistema adoptado generalmente. Pero ¿en qué hora, á que momento se reproducen estas escenas de sangre y horror? Esto es lo que parece incomprehensible.....Precisamente cuando la Europa ha llegado á aquel alto punto de civilizacion y de luces á que jamas habia ni aun acercádose: cuando los mismos gobiernos se ven precisados à confesar la necesidad de reformar y mejorar sus instituciones sociales: cuando los pueblos del antiguo continente no pueden sufrir ni la sombra de la opresion; y cuando finalmente la España levanta el grito y proclama los mismos principios porque se manda asesinar á los Americanos? ¿Creerá la posteridad ò leerá sin asombro la relacion de los sucesos que nosotros estamos viendo y palpando? El mismo cañon, la misma mano que arroja la bala contra la tirania en España; la va à arrojar contra la libertad en América.

¿De qué les sirve à los ancianos que se borre en el código sagrado el nombre de colonias, que se llamen las Américas parte integrante, y que se les dé un representante por cada quinientas mil almas, si en lugar de ver à *Sámano* y á *Morillo* entregados à la indignacion y al justo castigo que merecen por sus atroces y bárbaros asesinatos, ven por el contrario que se les mandan nuevos auxilios para que continuen saqueando y devastando aquellos lugares infortunados? No hay que cansarse, mi amigo, en querer conservar solo para con las Américas la tortuosa y maquiavélica politica de los siglos de ignorancia; este tiempo ya pasó, y no hay medio: ó la Europa y el mundo entero se someten á las ideas de la Santa Liga, ó

es preciso mudar de principios y de conducta con las Américas, si no se quiere perderlas absoluta y definitivamente.

¿Quién creeria que al levantar el grito de la insurreccion el mismo egército que estaba destinado para ir à sofocar la de América; que al ver santificada y aprobada esta insurreccion por el Rey y la Nacion, no se cambiaran tambien las ideas y los sentimientos sobre aquella parte del mundo que ha ocasionado esta feliz transformacion? Por qué en ùltimo resultado sin la firmeza de los Americanos en sostener sus derechos, sin sus constantes y heróicos sacrificios que obligaron à reunir al egército de ultramar, de un egército de héroes que sin esta circunstancia jamas se habria reunido, la generacion presente no habria hecho mas que inútiles esfuerzos, y sus cadenas lejos de aliviarse, se habrian hecho cada dia mas y mas pesadas.

Esta es una verdad que està à la vista y à los alcances de todos. Y si à los Americanos se debe el primer impulso, el egemplo, ó sea solo el logro de la regeneracion y de la actual felicidad de la madre patria, ¿porqué triste fatalidad se dá tan mal pago à sus hijos? ¿porqué se vituperan, se acriminan, y se castigan los mismos sentimientos que han servido de modelo para la santa insurreccion?.....¿Pero nuestro comercio? se dice.....¿Pero nuestra dominacion?.....¿Pero nuestra gloria?.....No confundamos las palabras en una época tan delicada, y cuando es tan necesaria la exactitud en las voces: es preciso traducir estas expresiones dándoles su verdadero significado; ellas serán exactas si se dice.....¿Pero nuestro ruinoso monopolio?.....¿Pero nuestros Ylotas?.....¿Pero nuestro orgullo ultrajado?.....Y ¿por motivos tan bajos se priva de sus derechos á quince millones de hombres por una nacion ilustrada, por la madre patria que hace hoy tan heróicos esfuerzos para recuperar su libertad?

Los hombres, que como V. tienen sanos principios, que conocen los verdaderos elementos de la riqueza nacional, de la felicidad pública, y los fundamentos de un buen Gobierno, saben hasta la evidencia que el sistema colonial de los tiempos modernos solo puede convenir à un Gobierno despótico, que sin reparar en los medios todo lo absorve para sí; pero que de ningun modo puede ser útil à un Gobierno sábio, ilustrado, y que deseé la felicidad pública. El comercio floreciente, la verdadera gloria, la prosperidad general solo la debe esperar la España de su dominacion sobre nuestros corazones, y jamas, jamas sobre nuestras personas y propiedades. No hay medio, amigo mio, ó se deben conservar los reglamentos gremiales, las compañías privilegiadas, los estancos y cuantos monopolios trata de destruir justísimamente la Constitucion, ó el sistema de las Américas se debe mudar; porqué ¿cómo es posible concebir que el estanco de ésta ó la otra industria, de éste ó el otro género sean perjudiciales à la riqueza pública, y no lo sea el de todas las producciones del nuevo mundo? Pensar que las ganancias de cuatro comerciantes pueda hacer la felicidad de la nacion, es desconocer hasta los primeros elementos de la economía política: es querer persuadir que la compañía de Filipinas ha hecho la felicidad de la España. Yo apelo al testimonio de cuantos se han estado *muriendo de hambre* en todo este tiempo al lado de los ricos almacenes de sus opulentos socios, para que me digan si ella les ha traido la abundancia y comodidad, que un comercio libre les habria sin disputa proporcionado.

Si estos principios son ciertos, si la experiencia, la razon, la justicia y el dictamen de los hombres mas sàbios de Europa estàn de acuerdo sobre que los Ingleses en lugar de perder ganaron con la independencia de sus colonias de Norte América, à pesar de la rivalidad que puede traerle la identidad de producciones y de sistema; ¿por qué en España tantos torrentes, tantas injusticias y sacrificios para conservar con la fuerza subyugadas nuestras Américas, cuando nuestras producciones son tan diversas, nuestras relaciones tan íntimas, y nuestros intereses tan recíprocos, que bajo un sistema liberal y justo ellos deben afianzar nuestra union y felicidad?

Yo no entro aquí en la gran cuestion de su emancipacion absoluta, que llenará de gloria, de una gloria sin egemplo à la España, y que la elevará al grado de esplendor y de verdadero poder á que es llamada cuando acabe de conocer sus verdaderos y sólidos intereses, cuando renuncie à sus añejas preocupaciones; porque este punto grave é importantísimo será sin duda uno de los que tomará primero en consideracion el gran CONGRESO NACIONAL que està para reunirse, y que le hará formar una época memorable en los anales del mundo civilizado. Me limito à rogar à V. con toda la ternura de mi corazon, y à cuantos hombres ilustrados y benéficos honran hoy el suelo patrio en la aurora de su regeneracion política para que unan sus clamores à los mios. Enhorabuena que treinta Diputados representen à quince millones de hombres, que ésto se haga por suplentes sin poderes, que su reunion para votar sea bajo la inspeccion de la policía en Madrid como pupilos ó sospechosos; pero ¡¡ inhabilitar à la multitud de Americanos que han venido presos por opiniones, cuando se rehabilitan hasta los muertos que en España han acabado en un cadalso por la misma causa!! ¡¡ pero preparar expediciones marítimas, por que no se puede otras, para que continue la opresion, la matanza y el saqueo al reunirse las Córtes!! ¿Es està la fraternidad? ¿és está la felicidad que nos dice la convocacion de Córtes, que en todos tiempos estamos acostumbrados à participar? Pero mas adelante nos dice, *que el génio odioso de la tiranía huye despavorido de este feliz suelo, llevando sus ensangrentadas cadenas à países ménos venturosos:* y no parece sino que en estos paises ménos venturosos nos representa à las infortunadas Américas.

No es posible, mi buen amigo, al ver esta contradiccion de principios y de sentimientos persuadirse otra cosa sino que los enemigos de la felicidad de la España, que todavía germinan en abundancia, son los promovedores de semejantes inpolíticas y mal convinadas providencias. Ellos tienen seguramente todavía esperanzas de derribar el nuevo y magestuoso edificio que se està levantando; y ya que no puedan salvar las cabezas de los *Elíos* y sus semejantes, à lo ménos quieren conservar las de los *Morillos*, y demàs satélites que tienen en América.

Si las cosas continúan de este modo si en lugar de darnos pruebas de justicia y buena fé castigando à nuestros asesinos se sigue protegiéndolos y auxiliándolos, si en vez de darnos una representacion aproximada siquiera à la base de la mitad de nuestra poblacion, solo se trata de hacer una farsa representativa; desde ahora podemos rogar al Soberano Congreso Nacional que nos borre en su santo código de ser parte integrante, supuesto que no se nos aplican las mismas leyes, y que los decretos para la península no tienen para nosotros la misma fuerza y significacion que para el lado de acá de los mares; y que nos vuelva à declarar colonos y viles esclavos, pues à lo ménos en este caso nos dajará el incontestable derecho de resistir la fuerza con la fuerza, ó de entregarnos, si no puede ser otra cosa, à otro amo que nos trate con mas dulzura y humanidad.

Quedo de V. con el mayor aprecio y respetuosa consideracion, S.S.B. y amigo=El Valle 11 de Abril de 1820.=*Henrique Somoyar.*

(En S. Fernando, isla de Leon, imprenta de la Viuda de Periu.)

Carta del Ciudadano Antonio Alcalá Galiano al Director de la Sociedad Patriótica instalada en Cádiz en el Café de la Constitucion.

Muy Señor mio: debo à mi honor ofendido, à la ciudad en que nací mal informada y à la verdad obscurecida, una explicacion de las palabras por mí dichas en la Tribuna del café de la Constitucion de esa ciudad, palabras que, al pronunciarlas, me grangearon aplausos extraordinarios y muy superiores à lo que ellas merecian, y que despues tergiversadas por la malicia ó por la estupidez me han acarreado críticas tan amargas como infundadas.

La cuestion sobre la conducta, que en las actuales circunstancias debe observarse con la parte de América que està separada de nuestra España, dió origen à mi discurso. Expliqué sobre este punto mis opiniones: hallé quien las impugnarà sin entenderlas; rebatí como pude sus argumentos, y al dia siguiente en ausencia mia fueron estos reproducidos, y por tal manera, que se intentaba, adulando las pasiones populares, cortar hasta la discusion sobre materia de tanta importancia. No trato de calificar este manejo de mi impugnador: mi intento es puramente demostrar que lo que dije no fué lo que se supuso, ó a lo ménos lo que se divulgó por Cádiz.

Mi obgeto al hablar de América fué solo mirar el bien de mi Patria, sobre manera interesada en que desde ahora se entre por el camino recto y ùnico que gùia à la conciliacion de los ànimos de cuantos habitan aquellos paises. La cuestion es importante, y lejos de ser importuna, por el contrario es muy del dia, puesto que nos hallamos en la ocasion crítica, en la que debe aprovecharse para dar à los Americanos una idea favorable de nuestros sentimientos, respecto à ellos y à su futura suerte. A el hablar en el asunto aunque me acordé de que era hombre, no me olvidé de que era Español, y Español (aunque parezca jactancia decirlo) amante de mi Patria y de la libertad en *toda época*. No crei empero que para acreditar mi patriotismo debia usar el lenguage de la lisonja ó la mentira que hasta ahora no ha manchado mis làbios. No juzgue que proponer cosas favorables à la América era ser contrario à la España. Tenia muy presente que los Ingleses mas distinguidos, los primeros patriotas de su Nacion, un Chatham, un Burke, y un Fox, abogaron la causa de los Anglo-Americanos, y no por eso fueron mirados con ódio, ni tiznada su fama, aun cuando el voto del pùblico no favorecia sus opiniones. Yo que solo puedo compararme à tan claros varones en mi ardiente amor à la libertad pensé que me era licito reclamar contra cosas, que en mi sentir, léjos de producir buen efecto à España ó à Càdiz mismo, le son en realidad muy perjudiciales. Lo pensé y hasta ahora no me he desengañado.

Decir que yo pedí que se concediese à alguna provincia de América su independencia, es una impostura ó una equivocacion muy grocera. Mi raciocinio fué el siguiente:

Provincias de América hay que estàn en guerra con nosotros, y de ellas parte se halla en posesion de la independencia de hecho, y parte encarnizadamente y con varias fortunas pelea por conseguirla. Nuestro Gobierno anterior seguia una guerra furibunda, por someterlas à un yugo tiránico igual cuando ménos al que oprimia à la España. Al sacudir este yugo la península: al ver restablecida la Constitucion, cuya base es la libertad; al querer extenderla à las Américas. ¿de qué modo debemos portarnos?

He ahí el obgeto en que yo diferí de otros, y aun del elocuente Manifiesto que à nombre del Rey acaba de hacerse à los habitantes de Ultramar: Manifiesto escrito con suma gala de lenguage, lleno de màximas liberales y sólidas, pero que contiene algunas palabras contradictorias de las mismas doctrinas que en él tanto se han admirado. De esta clase son las frases conminatorias con que termina, intempestivas en mi sentir, porque en política deben ir siempre juntos el amago y el golpe.

Voy à proponer el lenguage que creia deber usarse con las Américas; esto es, con aquellas provincias actualmente en guerra con la España, y cuyo alzamiento anterior à la época en que la Constitucion fué jurada y aun à la reunion de

las Córtes, no permitió que mandasen Diputados à éstas, ni aceptasen aquella.

" Americanos (les diria yo, y pretendia que se les dijese) para las Españas se abre ahora una era nueva. Lo pasado està dado al olvido: miremos solo à lo venidero: cesen entre nosotros las hostilidades: nombrad representantes vuestros que vengan con los de la peninsula à tratar de asegurar vuestra felicidad futura. Y en prueba de que la invitacion que os hacemos es franca y fraternal veis ahí que os enviamos mensageros de paz en vez de expediciones guerreras, y mensageros dignos de vuestra confianza. Los hombres, cuya presencia en vuestro suelo despertaria en vosotros memorias amargas desapareceràn de ese pais al modo que se ha practicado en España con los que eran sospechosos à los pueblos. En pago solo esperamos de vuestra parte una buena correspondencia, y que os presteis cordialmente al arreglo pacífico de nuestros destinos comunes."

Este fué el lenguage de la representacion hecha por la sociedad de S. Fernando extendida àntes que la citada proclama del Rey llegase à su poder. Este fué el que yo propuse à la sociedad de Càdiz, y no el que se pidiese al Rey que diese à los Américanos la independencia, cosa para la cual ciertamente no està S.M. facultado. Y si en el calor de una discusion, para la cual no iba preparado, solté alguna expresion fuerte contra los que han sostenido en América la tiranía; si dije que no eran ellos propios para llevar proposiciones de paz y union al pueblo de América, así como los Guias no lo serian para el pueblo de Càdiz, por cierto no me arrepiento de haber hablado en este sentido. La conducta observada por los agentes del pasado despotismo, tanto en la peninsula, como en ultramar, siempre me fué, y me es, y me serà odiosa, y eso no deben extrañarlo mis conciudadanos, sabidores de mis esfuerzos, para derrocar la tiranía y à cuantos la sostubieran.

¿Y merecen unas proposiciones como las que acabo de referir, ser tachadas de anti-constitucionales? Verdad es que al hacerme la objecion de que infringia este sagrado código, respondí que en punto à integridad de territorio la Constitucion habria à veces de ceder à la necesidad. ¿Pero eso es un delito? La cuestion de integridad es de hecho mas que de derecho. Supongamos que una desgracia imprevista arrebatase en lo sucesivo à la España una de las provincias que la componen, y de tal manera que no fuese posible recuperarla. ¿No debia entonces atenderse à la sabia màxima de Burke que yo cité, à saber: "que una Nacion asi como no debe sostener una causa injusta, asi no debe sacrificarse por una cosa justa, sino le acarrea utilidad?" Pero se me dirà: en el caso supuesto cediendo una provincia se infringia la Constitucion. Sí, responderé; os lo concedo; quedaria infringida, pero del modo mismo que la infringiria un terremoto, si atacase su integridad, sepultando en las entrañas de la tierra ó en el hondo de los mares una parte de su territorio.

No se crea que yo entonces puse, ni ahora pongo à mi patria en un caso tan desesperado. Venero la Constitucion, yo no trato de atacar la integridad de la Monarquia establecida por ella; pero quise y quiero demostrar que hay ocasiones en que esta integridad padece menoscabo, aun cuando *ahora* no estemos en una ocasion de tal naturaleza.

He dado razon de mis verdaderas opiniones, y aun de los argumentos en que las apoyé. Jùzguenme ahora mis conciudadanos, y si su juicio fuere severo, recaiga al ménos sobre mis culpas y no sobre las que me achacan.

Consideren los que me culpaban, que son materias estas, sobre las cuales no puede fallarse de ligero; que para tratarlas se necesita no solo (como para todas) buena lógica y conocimiento del idioma en que se habla, sino instruccion en la historia, en la legislacion y en la política. Sin estos requisitos mal puede juzgarseme y ménos confundirseme: lo que puede hacerse es imputarme falsedades, y contra esto voy à reclamar.

No se me impute que dije que la isla estaba en diferente estado que el resto de la península. Semejante opinion salió de boca de mis impugnadores y yo me apresuré à rebatirla, probando que los que tuvimos la gloria de alzar el primer grito de libertad, somos ahora tan dóciles à la ley y tan obedientes à las autoridades constitucionales, como enemigos fuimos de los agentes del poder absoluto. Si usando de los derechos de ciudadanos hacemos alguna representacion, es solo imitando lo que se practica en otras provincias; es en uso de las libertades que la Constitucion nos concede, y no de una independencia que nunca pensamos en arrogarnos.

No se me impute que desobedezco à S.M. tildando algunas frases de un escrito distinguido con su real nombre. El Rey en el idioma constitucional no puede ser atacado, pero el Rey en el mismo idioma nunca obra por sí, sino aconsejado por ministros responsables; y el desaprobar alguna accion ó palabra de estos en nada se opone à las leyes, si se hace con la moderacion debida.

No se me impute que por sostener derechos de otros voy contra los intereses de Càdiz. Semejante imputacion no es ofensiva; pero es infundada: los intereses de Càdiz requieren que se adopten medios conciliatorios y pacíficos, puesto que los hasta aqui empleados solo han producido à esa ciudad desgracias y ruinas. Si yo tratase de deshacer algun armamento formidable aprestado para sostener los intereses de Càdiz, enhorabuena se me tachase de ser mas amante de la justicia que de la ciudad en que naci, pero el caso es diverso, y lo mas justo es ahora tambien lo mas útil.

No se me imputen, finalmente, motivos indignos....En este momento la pluma se cae de mis manos. Yo creo que entre mis conciudadanos es pùblica mi conducta: por cierto no exenta de ligerezas y debilidades; pero intachable (séame lícito decirlo) en cuanto respecta al honor. Mi vida política ha sido uniforme, nunca desfigurada por la adulacion ni por algun manejo ruin. Jamas cayó sobre mí la sospecha de venal, cualidad tan agena de mi carácter como la de delator. Hasta logré la fortuna de que en las multiplicadas empresas relativas à nuestro alzamiento, en que tomé parte, jamas tuve que poner precio al patriotismo, ni que venderlo ni comprarlo por cuya feliz ocurrencia jamas me fué necesario agregar cuentas à la relacion de mis servicios. Me avergüenzo de hablar de estas cosas: en realidad el desprecio es la ùnica arma que debo usar contra villanas insinuaciones sordamente circuladas.

No quiero con todo que se crea que desprecio la opinion pùblica. Para comparecer ante ella tal cual soy y no tal cual se me ha pintado escribí estos renglones ¡Dichoso yo, si mejor informada, me favorece con su aprobacion!

Pero tampoco se piense que por captar esta aprobacion incurrí en la bajeza de retractarme de lo que dije publicamente. No: las retractaciones jamas afearàn mi carácter. Aclaro lo que estaba obscuro: espreso mi sentir como él es; pero si asi no agradare, pensar de otro modo no està en mi mano: y amante de la libertad no le haré traicion, callando lo que creyere útil. Mal podriamos llamarnos libres si no nos hallasemos en aquella situacion tan bien descrita por Tàcito, en que "puede pensarse lo que se quiera y decirse lo que se piense."

Queda de V. Señor Director atento seguro servidor, Q. S. M. B.=*Antonio Alcalá Galiano.*

[*Càdiz año de* 1820: *Imprenta de D. José María Guerrero.*]

JURAMENTO DE ADHESION A LA CONSTITUCION ESPAÑOLA.

El ilustre y profundo Jurisconsulto Jeremías Bentham ha publicado un juicioso examen del decreto de Fernando de 30 de Marzo, por el cual se ordena que pierdan los honores, emolumentos y prerrogativas que procedan del poder civil ó del eclesiàstico, todos los que no se adhieran *à la Constitucion, y que ademas sean expatriados,* siendo indignos de ser considerados como Españoles.—*El Sr. Bentham manifiesta de un modo convincente que los efectos de este decreto serán perniciosos al mismo Gobierno, bajo varios aspectos: que él por sí solo inducirà à la infraccion; y que como la pena que se impone obrarà como recompensa de la simulacion, no debe esperarse que produzca sino inmoralidad nacional. Aludiendo à la expresion de que los disidentes, ó que no se* adhieran, *son indignos de ser tratados como Españoles, dice:*

¡INDIGNOS DE SER TRATADOS COMO ESPAÑOLES! Qué! El hombre que prefiere ser desterrado para siempre de su pais, que prefiere perder todo emolumento, y tal vez todos los medios que tiene para subsistir, àntes que hacer una declaracion simulada, àntes que dar un falso juramento, ¿seria indigno del nombre de Español por este respeto à la moral, por el respeto que de este modo mostrase à la religion? ¿O Españoles? pensad si tal decreto ha de permanecer en fuerza, pensad en el caracter con que vosotros mismos os presentais à las demas naciones.

El mal es limitado en cuanto à la pérdida de la situacion política, de los emolumentos, poderes y dignidades facticias, porque està reducido al número de *poseédores* ó de *pretendientes.* Pero el *destierro* no està reducido à tales limites, ni los tiene. No veo que se le hayan dado otros que los de toda la poblacion.

Españoles! Considerando la extension, belleza y fertilidad natural de vuestro país, no sobreabunda, no, en habitantes; y ni su poblacion se aumentarà con la expulsion de los que *no juraren,* ni se mejorarà con la conversion de hombres sinceros, por mas extraviados que se les suponga, en mentirosos, perjuros, y ocultos enemigos.

Españoles! El que os dà esta prueba de su celo por lo que à sus ojos es buen gobierno, y del afectuoso interés que toma en el suceso de la gran empresa en que os ve empeñados, es uno, que tal cual es, ha estado ocupado por mas de medio siglo en investigar lo que sea mas saludable al género humano en el vasto campo de la legislacion.

[*Empeñada la mentirosa Corte de Madrid en hacer creer que los Libertadores de la opulenta Mégico hayan sido sojuzgados, publicamos con doble placer el artículo siguiente que hemos tomado del número* 18 *del* Español Constitucional. *Su antigua fecha no debe hacerlo menos apreciable, teniendo en consideracion nuestra respectiva posicion geográfica, y las dificultades de una comunicacion directa. Mucho tiene aun que hacer la España para desarmar à los vengadores del magnánimo Guatimotzin.*]

" Las mismas relaciones oficiales, hechas al virrey *Apodaca,* confiesan (por decontado) la existencia de una *Junta Gubernativa* en la Provincia de Valladolid, (bautizándola, como es natural, con los nombres de *intrusa, rebelde y contumás*); y tambien confiesan que esta Junta es obedecida por veinte y tres comandantes de guerrilla, cuya fuerza asciende à doce mil hombres. El Padre *Torres* tiene tres mil hombres, y el cacique *Boutista* dos mil. El Gobierno Patriótico reside en las montañas de lo que se llama *La tierra caliente,* sobre la costa del pacífico, entre Valladolid (capital del antiguo reino de Mechoacan) y la nueva Galacia. Los patriotas tienen extendidas sus partidas por todo el reino, y han adquirido la mayor ascendencia sobre las provincias de Guanajuato, Querétaro, y sobre las partes septentrionales de las de Mégico, La-Puebla y Vera-Cruz. En las dos primeras, los tres hermanos con el apellido *Ortiz,* tienen divisiones considerables; en las otras Provincias se halla el célebre General *Guadalupe Victoria* y su segundo, *D. José Vergara,* que con su egército, aunque pequeño, han arrostrado todos los esfuerzos de los realistas. Como tienen en el país tantos amigos, mantienen una linea de comunicacion desde la costa del Norte de Vera-Cruz hasta el Pacífico, en extension de mas de doscientas leguas. El General *Victoria* ocupa un territorio, donde se hallan las minas de Machuca, Moran, Real del Monte, y Potosí.—*Guadalupe-Victoria* es el hermano mas jóven del Marqués del mismo nombre, y pertenece à una de las mas ricas familias de Mégico. Varios de los gefes, que en consecuencia de las circunstancias críticas en que se hallaban, se aprovecharon de la real amnistía, han vuelto otra vez à tomar las armas, y uno de estos es Peña. Algunos de los oficiales que acompañaron al desgraciado Mina, tambien se han agregado à las partidas de guerrilla."

Angostura: impreso por ANDRES RODERICK, *Impresor del Gobierno, calle de la Muralla.*

Correo del Orinoco.

Núm. 79. Angostura: Sábado 9 de Setiembre de 1820—10.° Tom. III.

NEGOCIACIONES DE MORILLO.

☞ Nuestros lectores encontrarán á continuacion, y como prometimos en nnestro número anterior, los oficios de los Generales Morillo y Latorre á S.E. el LIBERTADOR PRESIDENTE. No son estos todavía los oficios ó credenciales de los Comisionados que iban *(segun dicen)* á tratar: no se intentaba con ellos sino era anunciar otra vez la negociacion; y aunque esto ya se hubiese hecho ántes muchas veces, sin embargo es fácil descubrir que convenía al General Morillo, y al General Latorre renovar frecuentemente estos anuncios, tanto para retardar nuestras operaciones militares, con la esperanza de que creyésemos racionales sus proposiciones; como para persuadir que si continùa la guerra, es puramente por nuestra obstinada denegacion á *deponer las armas* y á *entendernos*, haciendo *callar el resentimiento, el ódio, y el interés particular.*

No ha podido conseguirse el primer obgeto: ¡gracias á nuestros diez años de experiencia! y tampoco se conseguirá el segundo, porque ni el enemigo ha olvidado todavía sus pretenciones ni puede ninguno esperar que hayamos de deponer las armas á costa de nuestra Independencia, de nuestra libertad, y de nuestro honor nacional. Nuestros contemporaneos y la posteridad, que han de juzgar á la América insurrecta y á la España, leerán con asombro, que habiendo ésta roto sus cadenas y proclamado nuestros principios; que habiendo contribuido á su libertad la obstinada guerra de América, y los Americanos que desterrados ó por otros motivos se hallaban en la Península; que habiendo nosotros con nuestra heróica resistencia debilitado, desarmado al tirano de la España y de las Américas, y facilitado de este modo la reaccion y el triunfo de los Españoles en sùs propias provincias, nuestros contemporaneos y la posteridad dudarán creer que estos mismos Españoles ya libres y dueños de sus acciones, proclamándose campéones de la razon y de los derechos del hombre, y monstruosamente inconsecuentes, hubiesen de corresponder á los inumerables egemplos de virtud y de patriotismo que les hemos dado en estos diez años de sangrienta lucha, provocándonos de nuevo á la guerra, excitándonos á ser nuestros propios calumniadores, y convidándonos á que seamos traidores á nuestra gloria, y á nuestra felicidad. Muchas veces lo hemos dicho ya; pero es fuerza repetirlo: ¿Qué es lo que significan esos multiplicados anuncios de negociaciones, esa repentina prodigalidad de expresiones afectuosas, esa reconciliacion solicitada ahora aparentemente con tanto ahinco? Nos dicen que depongamos las armas, y nos sometamos á su Constitucion. Mas ¿no conocemos nosotros bastante esa *constitucion?*.....¿la han variado por acaso?.....¿no es la misma bajo la cual estuvo encarcelada Venezuela toda, no es la misma que hizo perecer la mitad de nuestras familias, y que nos arrebató nuestras propiedades, nuestro reposo?....y ¿para qué prodigar tan falazmente expresiones de fingido afecto, cuando solo se trata de vernos sometidos?..... ¿ni qué reconciliacion puede haber á tanta costa, ni como concebirla siquiera, cuando no se nos propone sino el que retrogrademos al año de 1809; y que nos restituyamos á la miserable y desgraciada situacion en que nos vimos bajo el gobierno de Monteverde? ¿Se presumiran tal vez que prescindiendo de diez años de la mas cruel experiencia, y prescindiendo de nuestros derechos, lo cedamos todo á las insinuaciones del *amable y compasivo Morillo?* Dejemos materia tan desagradable, y en que nada podemos decir, que sea nuevo para nuestros lectores; y llamemos su atencion al nuevo lazo que se descubre en el oficio del General Morillo que publicamos hoy.

Nada digamos de la afectada ignorancia ó mezquina intencion con que solo dá el título de Presidente del Congreso á S.E. el Presidente de la República: no le privemos del único consuelo que deja á su gloria militar su escepticismo: pero observemos que en la nota que este General dirigió al Soberano Congreso, y que nuestros lectores vieron en nuestro nùmero 71, anunciaba que habia *entablado negociaciones con el Gefe superior militar, y con suś subalternos proponiendo una suspension de hostilidades;* mas en la que publicamos hoy dirigida á S.E. el LIBERTADOR PRESIDENTE no solo trata de una suspension temporal de hostilidades, sino de negociaciones, cuya *decision vuelva á estos pueblos la paz que esa fatalidad ha hecho desaparecer.* Y ¿qué intentaba el General Morillo con esta doble negociacion sobre la misma materia?..... ¿Esperaba encontrarnos inconsecuentes? ¿esperaba que nos contradijésemos? ó solo deseaba pruebas de que nuestro intento es puramente el de un partido, el de una faccion, el de pocos ambiciosos, como pregonaba su gaceta? Si sus asechanzas no han correspondido á sus deseos, han debido por lo ménos desengañarlo. De todos casi al mismo tiempo, y en una extension de mas de trescientas leguas no ha recibido otra respuesta que INDEPENDENCIA Ó MUERTE; y si hubo amaño ó confabulacion para darla, ésta existe desde que se nos forzó á desenvainar la espada, y es comun á todo Colombiano: y su mensagero que vino á Angostura no puede dejar de haberle dicho que la INDEPENDENCIA no es ménos cara que la LIBERTAD en la estimacion del Pueblo Colombiano; y que la contestacion que se le envió no fué discutida, porque no babia lugar á discusion, sino decretada pùblica y unanímemente y aprobada y celebrada por el pueblo que presenciaba con ojo atento y celoso la conducta de sus Representantes. Sepa el General Morillo, y sepa su Gobierno derivar todas las consecuencias que resultan de esta incontestable prueba de unanímidad, y ahorrarán, que lo pueden todavía, la efusion de sangre, y los males que han de ser consecuentes á la continuacion de esta injusta guerra.

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Oficio del General Morillo á S.E. el Libertador Presidente de Colombia.

SERVICIO NACIONAL.—Al Excmo. Sr. D. Simon de Bolivar, Presidente del Congreso de Guayana y General en Gefe de sus Tropas: : : Excmo. Señor: Ansioso de terminar los males de estas Provincias, y de cumplir religiosamente la voluntad de una nacion generosa y magnánima, y de un rey que acaba de dar las mas hermosas pruebas de un espíritu público, me apresuro á dirigir cerca de V.E. á Don Francisco Gonzalez de Linares, y á D. Juan Rodriguez de Toro, vecinos de la ciudad de Carácas, y cuyas excelentes calidades no son á V.E. desconocidas. Ellos pondrán en las manos de V.E. las suficientes credenciales con que van autorizados para esta importante comision, y por ellas se servirá V.E. ver cuales son su obgeto y sus fines.

Como General he hecho la guerra en este país, y me he presentado bajo el aspecto que este carácter lleva conmigo. Como conciliador no me apartaré jamas de las dulces formas que le son inseparables, habiendo evitado en aquella situacion cuantos males han estado á mi alcance en las difíciles circunstancias de una guerra de ódios y de partidos; y haciendo en ésta cuantos bienes han podido nacer de mi autoridad (1), á pesar de que la equivocacion ó una política del momento hayan presentado á ámbas bajo diversos aspectos.

Sírvase pues, V.E., oir la voz de comisionados, suficientemente autorizados, y haciendo callar la del resentimiento del ódio, y del interés particular y de las demas pasiones que puede oirse á su rededor en estos preciosos momentos, entrar en comunicaciones con ellos y llegar al cabo de una feliz decision que vuelva á estos pueblos desgraciados la paz, que una fatalidad ha hecho desaparecer.

Por estos principios y deseos, ignorante del lugar en que las operaciones militares permiten á V.E. residir, y cierto de la dilacion que esta ignorancia lleva conmigo, he dado igual comision cerca del Serenísimo Congreso residente en Angostura, á los Señores D. José Domingo Duarte, Intendente y Superintendente de Hacienda pública, y al Brigadier D. Tomás de Cires; al mismo tiempo que considerando el estado de guerra opuesta á las comunicaciones pacificas y tranquilas que solicito y propongo, he dado órdenes terminantes á las diversas divisiones del egército de mi mando y de las fuerzas marítimas para que suspendan las hostilidades, comunicando esta disposicion á los Gefes de las del mando de V.E.—Dios guarde á V.E. muchos años.—Cuartel-general de Valencia 22 de Junio de 1820.=*Pablo Morillo.*=Excmo. Señor D. Simon de Bolivar.

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Otro del General Latorre á S.E.

Servicio Nacional.—Al Excmo. Señor Presidente D. Simon de Bolivar.—Excmo. Señor: Con la mayor satisfaccion he recibido el oficio

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(1) Conocemos demasiado la justicia, gobierno y bondad característica del General Morillo para no saber dar á estas frases su verdadero sentido. Mas no nos parece fuera de tiempo publicar aquí lo que el Fiscal de la extinguida Audiencia de Santafé de Bogotá, Don Augustin Lopetedi, representó á su Corte en 25 de Setiembre del año pasado sobre la conducta del General Morillo, no ácia nosotros, sino ácia los amigos de su causa y de su Rey.....

" Con harto dolor, dice, puede asegurar vuestro Fiscal " que se ha hecho todo lo contrario. *Los pueblos* que de- " seaban con ánsia el restablecimiento del legítimo Gobier- " no, *fueron desde el principio disgustados con los espectá-* " *culos numerosos y frecuentes de sangre*, que se dieron en " casi todos los pueblos del Virreinato, con ver salir á *otros* " infinitos *aherrojados* para los presidios y obras públicas, " con los *alejamientos eternos* en que los oficiales debian re- " cibir *cuanto necesitaban* de los dueños de las casas; y se " erigian *en señores* de ellas; con la *contribucion permanente* " de raciones, de empréstitos forzosos, y otras extraordi- " narias, con el aumento de alcabalas desde 2 hasta el 5 " por ciento *sobre todas las producciones*; con la enorme " subida del precio de la sal y del aguardiente de caña ó " estancado; con un *trato duro y siempre desconfiado*, y " en fin con todos los excesos de una conquista de país " extraño, que no debieron cometerse en el que vino á " pacificarse."

" *Este cúmulo de males* sobre pueblos extraviados por " las circunstancias del tiempo, debió naturalmente dis- " gustarlos, y exponerlos á las consecuencias de la incon- " sideracion. Estas gentes en general son las mas mansas " de la tierra, y aman la tranquilidad hasta un punto que " ha podido justamente confundirse con la inaccion y la " apatia; pero, *al verse siempre vejados, oprimidos con el* " *peso enorme de las contribuciones, insultados hasta por los* " *soldados, mirados con desconfianza, amenazados y testigos* " *de casi diarios suplicios*, han debido irritarse, conside- " rando que *en vez de la paz, se procuraba su destruccion*, " y que se les trataba *no como á hermanos sino como á ene-* " *migos.*"

El General Morillo no puede recusar á este testigo, que no es Americano, sino golilla y fiscal de los Ameri- canos.

de V.E. de 17 del corriente conducido por mi primer Ayudante, el Teniente-coronel D. José María Herrera, él que no tiene el gusto de poner este en manos de V.E. por haber llegado bastante estropiado.

En la correspondencia que recibí ayer del cuartel-general me anuncia el Excmo. Señor General en gefe del egército expedicionario, que los Comisionados para tratar con V.E. vienen por esta direccion, anunciándome dicho Señor les ha dado órdenes terminantes para que hagan sus marchas à la ligera: yo infiero que estarán aquí en breves dias. Tambien me remite S.E. el adjunto pliego, el cual dirijo à las manos de V.E. con el sargento Juan Gonzalez, que ha acompañado à mi Ayudante cuando ha tenido el honor de ir al cuartel-general de V.E.

Tengo dadas las órdenes convenientes à las observaciones pertenecientes à esta Division, para que no pasen del puente real de la Grita, hasta donde llegarán tambien las del egército de V.E.

Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años.—Pueblo de Bailadores y Julio 21 de 1820.—Excmo. Señor.—*Miguel de Latorre.*—Excmo. Señor D. Simon de Bolivar.

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Copia de la respuesta de S.E. el Libertador Presidente al oficio del General Morillo de 22 de Junio último.

SIMON BOLIVAR, Libertador Presidente de la República de Colombia, &c. &c. &c.

Cuartel-general Libertador en el Rosario à 23 de Julio de 1820.—10.°

Al Excmo. Señor Don Pablo Morillo.

Excmo. Señor: Tengo el honor de acusar la recepcion del despacho que V.E. se ha servido dirigirme con fecha de 22 de Junio desde su cuartel-general de Valencia. La República de Colombia se congratula de ver rayar el dia en que la Libertad extiende su mano de bendicion sobre la desgraciada España, y de ver à su misma antigua Metrópoli seguirla en la senda de la razon. Resuelto el Pueblo de Colombia, ha mas de diez años, à consagrar hasta el último de sus miembros à la única causa digna del sacrificio de la paz, à la causa de la Patria oprimida, y confiado en la santidad de su resolucion expresada con la mayor solemnidad el 20 de Noviembre de 1818(2), de combatir perpetuamente contra el dominio exterior, y de no reconciliarse sino con la Independencia, me tomo la libertad de dirigir à V.E. la adjunta copia de la Ley Fundamental que prescribe las bases sobre las cuales puede tratar el Gobierno de Colombia con el Español. Con la mayor satisfaccion tengo el honor de ofrecer à V.E. esta franca declaracion como preliminar de toda transaccion entre nuestros respectivos Gobiernos, y como en testimonio de la rectitud que caracteriza à nuestro sistema liberal y representativo. El amor à la Paz tan propia de los que defienden la causa de la justicia, no será jamas ahogado por dolientes clamores de la humanidad, ántes inmolada en el teatro de tantos horrores.....V.E. puede contar conque no serán oidos el resentimiento, ni el ódio, ni aquellos intereses particulares que V.E. conceptua como enemigos de la Paz. Un solo grito resuena en Colombia: es el de la Naturaleza que reclama todos sus Derechos, hollados y hundidos hasta ahora en los abismos del Despotismo, que ha convertido en vasta desolacion cuantos dominios fueron Españoles..... El Armisticio solicitado por V.E. no puede ser concedido en su totalidad, sino cuando se conozca la naturaleza de la negociacion, de que vienen encargados los Señores Toro y Linares. Ellos serán recibidos con el respeto debido á su carácter sagrado. Entretanto me refiero á mis comunicaciones con el Señor General D. Miguel de Latorre.—Dios guarde á V.E. muchos años.—SIMON BOLIVAR.

(2) Entónces lo digimos, cuando la España se esforzaba à obtener auxilios de las naciones extrañas contra nosotros, bajo el título de *mediacion*. Mil veces lo habiamos dicho ántes, diez mil lo hemos repetido despues; pero con todo, copiemos aquí lo que la JUNTA NACIONAL congregada en esta Ciudad en 20 de Noviembre de 1818, declaró à nombre del pueblo à quien representaba.

1.° Que la República de Venezuela, por derecho Divino y Humano, está emancipada de la nacion española, y constituida en un Estado Independiente, Libre, y Soberano:

2.° Que la España no tiene justicia para reclamar su dominacion, ni la Europa derecho para intentar someterla al Gobierno Español:

3.° Que no ha solicitado, ni solicitará jamas su incorporacion à la nacion española:

4.° Que no ha solicitado la Mediacion de las Altas Potencias para reconciliarse con la España:

5.° Que no tratará jamas con la España sino de igual à igual, en paz y en guerra, como lo hacen reciprocamente todas las Naciones:

6.° Que únicamente desea la Mediacion de las Potencias extrangeras, para que interpongan sus buenos oficios en favor de la humanidad, invitando á la España á ajustar y concluir un tratado de paz y amistad con la Nacion Venezolana, reconociéndola y tratándola como una Nacion Libre, Independiente y Soberana:

7.° Ultimamente declara la República de Venezuela, que desde el 19 de Abril de 1810 está combatiendo por sus Derechos: que ha derramado la mayor parte de la sangre de sus hijos: que ha sacrificado todos sus bienes, todos sus goces, y cuanto es caro y sagrado entre los hombres *por recobrar sus Derechos Soberanos, y que por mantenerlos ilesos, como la Divina Providencia se los ha concedido, está resuelto el Pueblo de Venezuela à sepultarse todo entero en medio de sus ruinas, si la España, la Europa, y el Mundo se empeñan en encorvarla bajo el yugo Español.*

Esto dijo Venezuela: ¿qué dirá Colombia?

CONGRESO DE COLOMBIA.

El dia 3 del corriente se reunió el Colegio Electoral de esta Provincia de Guayana, que fué presidido por el Señor Gobernador Político de ella: y habiendo procedido à la eleccion de Diputados para el próximo Congreso, resultaron electos los Señores

Lic. Diego Bautista Urbaneja.
Dr. Francisco José Rivas.
Pres. José Felix Blanco.
Miguel Zarraga.
Cor. Francisco Conde.

Y habiéndose luego procedido à la eleccion de Suplentes, resultaron electos los Señores

Alonso Uzcátegui.
Fernando Peñalver.
Lic. Matias Lovera.
Cor. Pedro Briceño Mendez.
Lic. Francisco Javier Yanez.

BARCELONA.

Oficio del Señor General Monagas, Comandante-general de Barcelona à S.E. el Vice-Presidente de Venezuela.

Excmo. Señor: Despues de haber dejado al Potrero y Onoto en el mayor estado de tranquilidad, llegué ayer à este Canton de Guere: el Comandante de él, Capitan Tomás Antonio Rengel, se ha puesto à mis órdenes con la oficialidad y tropa, que consta de ochenta hombres, como asímismo los pocos elementos de guerra que estaban à sus órdenes.

El Comandante Torrealva lo he destinado à Piritù à proclamar allí la Independencia; y al mismo efecto al Capitan Pablo Figueredo à Caigua y el Pilar: hoy pienso destinar oficiales con el mismo objeto à San Mateo, Chamariapa y San Joaquin, y de lo que resulte daré parte à V.E.—Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años. Cuartel-general Divisionario del Canton de Guere 26 de Agosto 1820.10.°—Excmo. Señor.—El General de Brigada.—*José T. Monagas.*

ARTICULO COMUNICADO.

CARTA AL SR. DON FERNANDO VII. REY DE ESPAÑA.

Señor: He leido con el mayor placer y atencion una Proclama inserta en la gaceta extraordinaria de Puerto-Rico de 21 de Mayo último, que V.M. tiene la bondadd de dirigir à los habitantes de Ultramar, y en la que con la franqueza é ingenuidad que le es característica confiesa los errores y extravios de su conducta anterior; protesta un arepentimiento edificante; adopta medidas sábias y benéficas, consecuentes al reconocimiento y juramento espontáneos que ha hecho de la Constitucion de la monarquía, sancionada y promulgada por las Córtes generales reunidas en Cádiz, y ponderando las mejoras ulteriores que, por esta razon, son de esperarse en el sistema de gobierno, y en todos los ramos de administracion, intenta persuadir à los leales con las mas tiernas expresiones à que sigan su egemplo, y à que abrazen igual partido, volviendo à su centro maternal y legítimo los disidentes y extraviados.

Soy del último número, y aunque otros con mas talento y llenos de erudicion, sabiduría y elocuencia escribirán sobre el asunto lo conveniente, con todo, por lo que respecta à Venezuela, y por mi parte, quiero contestar con algunas verdades de todos conocidas, y hacer ciertas observaciones, que me han ocurrido hoy despues de haber llegado de sabanear y encerrar mis animales, y así comienzo:

Tantas veces han sido engañados los Colombianos con promesas hechas por el Gobierno Español, que el espíritu de desconfianza se halla establecido en todas las clases como un accioma eterno é indestructible, y nunca tendrán lugar aquellas aun cuando vengan marcadas con el carácter de la sinceridad y buena fé, y garantidas con los mas solemnes juramentos.

Muchos han sido los males que Colombia ha sufrido por su credulidad, y no se necesita sino recorrer las diversas épocas de su trastorno político para demostrar esta verdad. Pueblo alguno jamas se manifestó mas adicto à la España en los primeros momentos de su revolucion; pero provocado de sus mismos gobernantes por una conducta cruel y constante; abandonado à los furrores de magistrados pérfidos, corrompidos, y sin ninguna fé en lo que prometian; apurada la paciencia de los Colombianos hasta el término de la desesperacion, y expuestos por todos respetos à las pruebas mas terribles; la suerte de mi pais fué desidida, y su emancipacion dictada por aquellos mismos que en las favorables circunstancias en que se encontraron pudieron muy bien unir para siempre sus destinos con los de la monopoli.

En tiempo que V.M. fué conducido à Francia por la política de Bonaparte, en los momentos en que à consecuencia de tal acontecimiento se reunieron las Córtes del reino para su conservacion y defensa; cuando los principios liberales se difundian; cuando se discutia esa misma Constitucion que tanto se pondera; y cuando por esta razon esperabamos algun remedio á nuestros males emanados de la misma España; entónces fué que se faltó mas descaradamente à lo prometido, y se conoció que lo acordado en favor nuestro eran puras teorias. Entónces fué que vimos pisar nuestro territorio comisionados y gefes autorizados por tan benéfica asamblea que considerándonos como unos criminales, y sedientos de sangre americana, encendieron la tea de la discordia y division entre estos honrados vecinos, y dieron todo el impulso à una guerra civil la mas desastrosa.

No estarà de mas decir à V.M. que pueblos indefensos que se habian sometido de nuevo al Gobierno Real en virtud de tratados ajustados, fueron saqueados y quemados, y sus habitantes inhumanamente degollados, creyéndose facilitar asi la posesion tranquila de estas provincias. Familias enteras desaparecieron entre nosotros; personas las mas respetables fueron aherrojadas y conducidas à paises remotos: muchos perecieron sofocados en las prisiones, ó llenos de miseria y enfermedades contraidas en calabozos inmundos y horrorosos, y todo era terror, persecucion y espanto. Bastaba haber aparecido bajo cualquier aspecto en el teatro de nuestra santa revolucion para recibir la muerte, y solo pudieron escaparse al furor de los satélites sanguinarios de V.M. los que emigraron à los montes y paises neutrales; ó los que tuvimos valor y constancia para resistirlos, excitando por todas partes el ódio y la venganza tan justa y necesaria contra nuestros opresores.

Despues que V.M. regresó de Francia fué

muy conforme à su política y miras filantrópicas aprobar la conducta de aquellos Caníbales, premiarlos, condecorándolos con medallas, grados militares, y destinos que no merecian, y continuar la guerra de desolacion ya principiada, escogiendo como mas al propósito al héroe D. Pablo Morillo. Puedo asegurar à V.M. que éste es digno de su aprecio, pues como fiel vasallo no solamente ha renovado las tristes escenas de los primeros, sino que les ha excedido en cierto punto: y despues de haber cometido todo género de crueldades en contravencion à juramentos y capitulaciones solemnes, aun no se ha saciado su ferocidad.

En vista de tantos egemplares, de tantos peligros y persecuciones, ¿ podrémos nosotros confiar en los ofrecimientos que V.M nos hace ahora en su Proclama? De ninguna manera: mucho ménos porque la misma generosidad de su contesto muy léjos de surtir los efectos que se propone, por elcontrario hace abrir los ojos à los mas incautos, y tambien porque estàmos persuadidos que su corazon no puede haberse transformado tan subitamente, ni adquirir sentimientos tan piadosos por una conviccion intima de su entendimiento, siendo ùnicamente por un efecto de la voluntad de la nacion tan enérgicamente declarada y sostenida por las bayonetas del Benemérito QUIROGA, y otros en lo que no poca parte hemos tenido nosotros.

Quiero, sin embargo, suponerlos ciertos y dictados sin ningun doblez; ellos son ya extemporáneos y aun impolíticos. Nosotros hemos jurado nuestra Independencia absoluta en medio de desgracias y privaciones: hemos constituido un Gobierno Democrático moderado; nos hemos dado una Constitucion liberal: nuestros empleos se encuentran servidos por Colombianos justos é ilustrados; tenemos numerosos egércitos, y mas que nunca los auxilios y elementos de toda especie; y aunque aislados en medio de las naciones, nuestro Pavellon flota sobre los mares, y es respetado.

Nosotros estàmos plenamente convencidos, que cualesquiera que sean las instituciones y forma de administracion económica que se adopten en España, las relaciones de comercio y su resultado en la balanza general de los negocios, la representacion nacional, &c. &c. &c., serán siempre poco mas ó ménos los mismos, respectos à estos paises que lo han sido anteriormente, y está demostrado que la direccion de ellos y su gobierno solo es útil y conveniente à nosotros mismos.

Y ¿ deberémos volver atrás? ¿ podrémos apartarnos de las preciosas ventajas que nos hemos procurado? de la libertad, de la igualdad perfecta de derechos y de la garantia que tenemos por las lanzas que están en nuestras manos? No por cierto, y V.M. se cansará en vano, y conocerá que su poder no es bastante para arrancarnos por la fuerza, segun concluye su Proclama, dones tan exquisitos. Nosotros no deseamos la guerra, pero tampoco la tememos, porque la victoria acompaña siempre à una justa causa.

Los negocios de Colombia, en el estado actual en que se encuentran, son el resultado de los mas grandes sacrificios consagrados al ídolo de la libertad por la sangre pura é inocente de sus hijos, víctimas ó muertos en defensa de los derechos de que se les ha querido privar, y que han sabido adquirir por su valor y heroismo. No queda pues otro partido que tomar sino el que està escogido, justificado con el egemplo de otros pueblos, por la razon y la justicia, y por las circunstancias que lo han provocado. Conocidos ya en el mundo antiguo por nuestra reputacion militar, y otras cualidades, no podemos comprometer nuestra seguridad individual, y existencia política, por ofrecimientos insignificantes.

Toca así à la grandeza de la nacion española, y à los principios esclarecidos que V.M. ha desplegado desde el memorable dia 7 de Marzo del presente año, el reconocer los derechos é Independencia de Colombia, cuyas desgracias han tocado su Real sensibilidad, y excitado sus cuidados paternales. Esta seria una gloria eterna para V.M., y la única medida que podria conciliar los intereses de los Ultramarinos y Européos Españoles, haciendo florecer el comercio, cuyo canal abundantísimo, haría la felicidad de ámbos pueblos.

Baste pues lo dicho para que V.M. conozca cuàles son los votos de los Colombianos, y los míos como buen Maturinés, añadiendo en respuesta, y por conclusion otra reflexion con respecto à los temores sobre los extrangeros que se indican en la referida Proclama. Al carácter conocido de los que actualmente se encuentran entre nosotros debemos tributarles los elogios à que son acreedores. Ocupados en las respectivas profesiones jamas han pretendido tener influjo, ni mezclarse en los negocios públicos: ellos no temen emplear grandes capitales en el comercio, avànzar sumas de consideracion à los particulares y al Gobierno, y ayudar à la Repùblicacon sus personas y bienes. Perderian todo en la desorganizacion de nuestro sistema, y ninguno mas que ellos debe interesarse por su permanencia y seguridad, por el órden y tranquilidad.

Quiera el Cielo que estas mal ordenadas reflexiones lleguen à V.M. y aunque ellas no tengan lugar en su corazon, al ménos habran desahogado el mío.—Dios guarde la católica real persona de V.M. muchos años.—Señor.=*El Llanero Maturinés.*=San Fernando de Maturin Junio 20 de 1820. 10.°

SEGUNDA CARTA

De un Americano à un Amigo suyo.

[A la carta del Americano que publicamos en nuestro número anterior contestò en la isla de Leon un tal V. Sanchez Cerquero. Cual fuese su tono, sus razones, y la justicia que manifestase se colegirà de la carta siguiente.]

No puedo perdonar à V. mi buen amigo, la publicacion de mi carta de 11 del pasado sin previo consentimiento mio; y lo mas extraño es que me acompañe su impresion con la observacion que me dice haber oido à otro Americano sobre una equivocacion que he padecido en ella, y con la crítica impresa de un geometra. ¿ No vé V. ya las consecuencias de su imprudente ligereza? ¿ A qué diablos me ha ido V. à meter con geometras, que me dicen que son irresistibles en sus demostraciones? Buena la ha hecho V. ya lo veo; y lo peor de todo es que nos manda callar amenazàndonos con sus *chinchorrerías*, y advirtiéndonos que està seguro de la victoria.

Me parece que para conciliarnos con tan tremendo enemigo sería bueno que nos resolviéramos à hacer una confesion sincera de nuestras culpas, convidàndolo à que él hiciera lo mismo. Yo para dar el egemplo confieso que me equivoqué y andube ligero en haber dicho que la reunion de los Americanos para votar, sea bajo la inspeccion de la policia en Madrid, como pupilos ó sospechosos: V. debe confesar que pecó en haber impreso y publicado mi carta sin mi consentimiento; y el Señor Geometra en haberse metido à criticarla cuando no se trata en ella de resolver problemas matemàticos, sino políticos que ni son del resorte de su facultad, ni creo que estàn à sus alcances aunque haya visto la América pues si esto solo bastara, yo tambien fuera geometra, y lo fueran todos los hombres que han visto cuerpos, y que se puedan formar una idea de la cantidad y del espacio. No obstante, como mi carta y la del geometra andan ya en manos de todos, no serà fuera de propósito el decir cuatro palabras mas para que bien aclarada la cuestion sea su confesion mas sincera: digo mas sincera, porque ya él mismo la ha comenzado à hacer confesando *que carece de las cualidades necesarias para escribir;* confesion que no solo no le contradigo, sino que ella sola me moveria à perdonarle todos sus dicterios, y à absolverlo con mi silencio, si no me creyera obligado con el pùblico ó sincerar mis sentimientos, y si no esperarà que la haga mas amplia y general.

Comienza pues mi geometra asentando que en mi carta hay especies *destituidas de verdad, de moderacion, alarmantes, sin juicio, llenas de encono y resentimiento injusto contra determinadas personas, y de una cabilosidad miserable.* ¿Quién al leer este exordio de un geometra, que à lo ménos debia haberse acostumbrado à formar ideas exactas por su facultad, no creria que despues de asentar tales proposiciones iba à entrar à aprobarlas en el cuerpo de su escrito? Pues nada ménos que esto: yo mismo me llevé el chasco de haberlo pensado, y protesto que si el tal Señor lo hubiera hecho con el juicio que dice que a mi me falta, y me hubiera convencido, como confieso ahora un pecado, confesaria tambien todos los demas en que por mi debilidad hubiera incurrido. Pero mi amigo, éste no es seguramente el misionero que nos ha de convertir *al servilismo*, y hacernos amar al *héroe* Morillo manchado con la sangre de nuestros conciudadanos y amigos.

Despues de elogiarme con tan bellas frases entra al Señor Cerquero en materia, y comienza por decir que es falsa en todo y por todo la especie de que se hable en todas partes de la criminal insurreccion de América, tomando esta expresion en un sentido tan riguroso como si se tratara de medir los pies cùbicos que debe ocupar el oro atesorado por Morillo. Vaya que aqui si se conoce que *es amante de la exactitud como geometra*, pero que està poco versado en la retórica, y aun en el comun lenguage de los que no hablan solo de acciomas. ¿ Quiere el Señor Cerquero una prueba corta de la verdad de mi acercion? pues dentro de su mismo corazon està, porque està vertida en su escrito: *él sube*, me dice, *lo mismo que yo (y acaso mejor) que sus paisanos fueron.....y son....*¡ dale con puntos! ¿ para que callar? digalo V. claro: fueron, y son insurgentes, sediciosos, criminales. ¿ No es esto lo que quieren decir los panticos? Ahora bien ¿ no eran estos mismos los dictados con que se apellidaba ahora dos meses à los héroes *verdaderos* de la libertad española? ¿ no lo tenemos los curiosos asi escrito en letra de molde? ¿ Pues en dónde està la falsedad que atribuye à mi exaltada imaginacion? Digame sino el Señor Cerquero en términos castisos, claros y sin punticos para que todos lo entiendan ¿si creé à los los Gefes y oficiales del primer egército nacional que rompieron las cadenas de la esclavitud, virtuosos ó criminales? Y à renglon seguido ¿si à los Gefes y oficiales que hasta hoy han peleado por su libertad en América los creé virtùosos ó criminales? y està concluida esta cuestion con su respuesta; advirtiendole solamente que para que quede concluida me ha de responder con la misma sencillez y claridad con que hago la pregunta, sin andarse con rodeos que no son propios de geometras.

Punto segundo. Me pregunta el tal Señor si he visto las providencias del gobierno con respecto à América, llamando *pesadísimo sueño* el apresto de barcos y oficiales para la Costafirme. La respuesta es muy sencilla: nada importa que yo haya visto tales providencias, lo que importa es que nos diga el Señor Cerquero ¿ si es cierto, ó no que se aprontan, ó han estado mandadas aprontar? Si dice que no lo sabe, le aconsejo que no hable de lo que no sabe: si dice que han estado mandados aprontar ¿ en qué consiste que sea un sueño ridículo y una expedicion ideal? y si dice que es falso y lo prueba, no solo me postraré en tierra y diré mi culpa, sino que le daré publicamente las gracias por una noticia tan interesante à los Americanos como à los buenos Españoles que conocen los verdaderos intereses de la España y de la humanidad.

En cuanto à lo de *callar y callemos que todos estamos sucios*, declaro por mi parte, que estoy tan sucio *de liberalismo* que soy capaz de apestar en una hora à treinta limpios y puros sérviles; y que todas esas quisicosas de exaltada imaginacion y demas con que me honra el Señor Geometra, creyendo insultarme, son tan ciertas que cuando veo à un Español verdaderamente inflamado por la santa causa de la libertad lo abrazo y lo beso aunque sea un barbon, como su Señoria lo pudiera hacer con otras personas de mas atractivo. Por lo que hace à su suciedad no me meto, allà con su pan se lo coma; porque soy enemigo de personalidades que no tengan relacion con la causa pùblica: sumerced mismo puede hacer su confesion como yo hago la mia, y decirnos con ingenuidad si hay algo en su conciencia de eso que està respirando su carta.

El tercer punto es *el de la montera de majo en un suceso.* Nueva confesion mia: no lo entiendo, ni creo que lo entienda la madre que lo parió. Expliquenos si gusta el Señor autor de la carta, porque hay muchos curiosos que desean saber

que quieren decir estas palabras de su critica; *sigue su narracion el Señor Somoyar comparando el siglo* 16 *con el de las luces, y despues de desenvolver ideas que podrian tener lugar hace seis meses.* .....Estos seis meses, Señor mio, es lo que deseamos nos aclare y nos diga ¿si ahora seis meses teníamos razon? ¿si podiamos sostenerla con el raciocinio y la imprenta? ¿conqué salvaguardia? ¿cuál habria sido su resultado? ¿y porqué ahora se parece à un suceso con montera de majo cuando sin tener que apelar à la fuerza para sostenerla, se nos abre la puerta de la libertad de hablar?

Vamos claros, que ya no estamos en tiempo de pugidos para decir la verdad: yo creo que el Señor autor teme todavía decirla cuando và por cierto lado, y yo voy à aventurar la explicacion de su metáfora monteruna; sugetàndome no obstante en este punto à su autor, como àntes nos sugetabamos à la Inquisicion. Creo pues que en estas oscuras frases nos ha querido decir: si ahora seis meses cuando reinaba el despotismo ministerial nos hubieran dicho estas cosas los Americanos, tendrian lugar pero despues de jurada la Constitucion (aqui viene como de molde lo de la montera del sueco) ya no sientan bien, ni son del caso. Enhorabuena, si acaso pareciere que he acertado con la mente del autor; mas yo quiero tomarme la libertad de hablar ahora como si supiera el lenguage de los geometras. He oido decir, y lo veo con mis ojos, que si à dos cantidades desiguales se les quitan ó añaden cantidades iguales, quedan desiguales; conque si en dos gobiernos desiguales se toman providencias iguales, los resultados deben ser iguales; conque si ahora con la Constitucion se toman las mismas providencias que se tomaban hace seis meses podian tener lugar nuestras reflexiones, nuestras quejas y nuestros clamores, tambien las podràn tener ahora, aunque se le caiga al sueco la montera de majo: con solo la diferencia de aquellos tiempos à estos, que entonces no habia mas derecho que el de la fuerza, y ahora hay el de la razon que es el distintivo del hombre justo, y el de poderla manifestar por medio de la imprenta, no para criticar por solo criticar, sino para desterrar errores y añejas preocupaciones; no para decir dicterios, sino razones que desengañen, que ilustren y nos conduzcan à esa pacificacion, à esa union, à esa concordia que todos deseamos de corazon, aunque con la notable diferencia que los hombres ilustrados y sensibles la desean de un modo franco y liberal, y los servilones ignorantes la quieren sugetando y castigando rebeldes como si aun fueran pocos los torrentes de sangre que se han hecho correr en aquellos desgraciados paises.

¿Qué Americano, mi amigo, qué Español sensible, qué hombre de cualquiera pais del mundo que sepa una sola parte de los sucesos de la Costafirme en estos últimos cuatro años, podrà oir sin una santa indignacion llamar héroe à Morillo, y decir que su conducta ha sido irreprehensible, que ha sufrido sin represalias las atrocidades que sin egemplo han usado con sus tropas mis paisanos? ¡Dios omnipotente, Dios justo, si la virtud que habeis concedido à los miseros humanos para sobrellevar las penalidades de la vida, es la que ha egercido Morillo sobre mis infelices compatriotas en estos cuatro años, yo la renuncio ante tu adorable presencia, y desde hoy quiero àntes ser criminal que imitarla! ¡Acabad, Dios mio, con mi triste existencia, mas bien que permitir que por un solo instante me le parezca! Estas lagrimas, Señor, que vierten mis ojos al recordar las amarguras de mi desgraciada patria bajo su dominacion, sean ante tu augusto trono mi ùnica justificacion si me engaño!

Oiga el pùblico, oiga un solo rasgo del héroe del Señor Cerquero, y que éste me lo contradiga si aun le quedare valor para elogiar à un monstruo. Españoles virtuosos, cuya sangre corre por mis venas, no os indigneis al oirme dar este epiteto à una fiera que ha nacido entre vosotros: advertid que todos los paises del mundo producen vivoras, panteras ó leopardos, como producen palomas ó ruiseñores. Escuchad y juzgad.

En Mayo de 1816 se acerca Morillo à esa Ciudad de Santafé de Bogotà que nos cita el Señor Cerquero, y desde un pueblo nombrado Ubate manda con una division al Coronel La Torre àcia ella. Una ó dos jornadas àntes de llegar éste à la ciudad recibe una invitacion de sus vecinos suplicàndole que adelantarà sus marchas y entrara pacificamente que no encontraria resistencia. Lo verificó en efecto, y cumplió en todo su palabra, publicando al otro dia un indulto general à nombre del Rey, y convidando à las personas que por temor de la guerra se habian emigrado para que volvieran con toda seguridad. No solo volvieron, sino que llenos de alboroso pasaron los cuatro dias que estuvo mandando La-Torre en obsequiarlo à él y sus oficiales con bailes, convites y regocijos. Al cuarto ó quinto dia llega el héroe Morillo ¿y cuàles fueron sus primeras palabras? *Que La-Torre no tenía facultad para haber concedido y publicado semejante indulto: que él no lo habia mandado à divertirse, sino à castigar insurgentes.* Desde la misma noche de su llegada comenzó la mas horrible y barbara proscripcion: todo padre de familia que tuviera luces, caudal, representacion ó influjo debia morir. Asi fué: hombres venerables por su edad septuagenaria, por sus anteriores servicios al Rey y à la patria, por sus virtudes domésticas fueron conducidos à un cadalso: Jóvenes ilustres por su nacimiento y por sus luces siguieron la misma suerte. Alli se vió al padre en un mismo calabozo despedirse del hijo que le arrancaban de los brazos para llevarlo al patíbulo, miéntras él quedaba destinado à ir à morir en un presidio: alli se vió sacar en pariguelas à los hombres moribundos para colgarlos en la horca àntes que espirasen; alli se vieron à las mugeres mismas salir al medio de una plaza à ser fusiladas, y las inocentes y tiernas doncellas de 11 y 12 años, huerfanos y sin amparo desterradas sin misericordia porque habian sido engendradas por padres insurgentes; y álli finalmente se vió el singular espectàculo de una ciudad de 40 mil almas de poblacion toda vestida de luto sin quedar una sola familia de distincion que no hubiera visto uno de los suyos acabar de una muerte infame, Criollos, Españoles, nobles, plebeyos, hombres, mugeres, niños y ancianos, todo cayo bajo la guadaña destructora del héroe.

Pero lo mas horroroso de este expectàculo es el tiempo y el modo. Despues de hacerlos gemir en los calabozos por muchos meses, se les condenaba à morir en el lugar de su nacimiento, aunque estuviera à ciento ó doscientas leguas de distancia, no se dejó ningun pueblo en donde no se egecutase un asesinato judicial, y en la capital se hicieron morir à todos los vecinos ilustres en distintos puntos de ella por espacio de nueve meses, *para que toda la Ciudad quedase regada con sangre de rebeldes.* Españoles sensibles y y virtuosos, ilustres Gaditanos que con tanta razon llorais el 10 de Marzo, sed imparciales y decidme; ¿tendréis mas razon de llorar que nosotros? ¿tendréis mas razon de detestar à vuestros verdugos que nosotros à los nuestros? ¿serà Campana criminal, y Morillo virtuoso? No: jamas, jamas se oirà que vuestros labios profanen asi el templo santo de la justicia y de la virtud.

Habia pensado, mi dulce amigo, contestar à las muchas ridiculeses que contiene la carta del Señor Sanchez Cerquero, de quien V. nada me dice, cuando él supone en su critica que me conoce, en lo que me parece sufre alguna equivocacion, pues por mi parte es la primera vez que oigo tal apellido; mas sea lo que fuere de esto, la agitacion de mi alma al traer à la memoria las desgraciadas víctimas inmoladas à un feroz despotismo, no me permite entrar ya en cuestiones que por una parte son de poco interés, y por otra de falsa notoriedad. Asi concluiré ésta mucho àntes de lo que me habia propuesto al comenzarla, con solo tocar otros dos puntos que me parece no debo pasar en silencio, y despues de haber convenido con mi crítico en que es cierto que *delirio por mi país*, y en que *mi delirio es de aquellos que no tienen remedio*, aunque no convenga igualmente con él en que ésta sea una demencia; pues creo que el no amar su pais si es una verdadera demencia, una ingratitud, un crimen mayor que el de no amar à nuestros padres, à nuestros hijos y à nuestros amigos. ¿Qué le parecen à V. los bellos sentimientos de tal Señor, que nos echa en cara nuestro amor à la libertad y à la patria? ¿pensarà lo mismo de sus paisanos, ó vendremos à caer sin pensarlo en el punto de la cuestion de que lo que es virtud en España, es pecado en América? Asi es que se enrredan y caen los hombres que se apartan de la senda de la verdad, queriendo suponer sentimientos que no tienen, y que al fin se les descubren ó se los descubren ellos mismos.

Los dos puntos conque voy à concluir son, primero: que nos diga el Señor Cerquero en el idioma sencillo que se le ha suplicado ¿si Elio, Capacere, Campana y sus semejantes han hecho otra cosa que obedecer y seguir las màximas del gobierno que regía? ¿si creé justa la indignacion pùblica contra estos Señores, y el que el gobierno actual los haya sometido al juicio de la ley? Y si creyere todo esto justo, que nos diga tambein ¿cuàl es la razon de disparidad para que confesando en su carta que Morillo en sus atroces y bàrbaros asesinatos *no ha hecho mas que obedecer à un gobierno, que aunque despótico, era el que regía*, esté esento de esta ley, de este juicio, de esta indignacion pùblica, cuando ni Elio ni ninguno de los de aqui han hecho ni la mitad de los atrocidades que el otro en América? Serà *no tener idea de lo que es justicia* pedir que se juzgue al uno como à los otros? A mi me parece que lo que *es no tener idea de lo que es justicia* es llamar héroe à un agente del despotismo; à ménos qne allà en la gramàtica parda del Señor Cerquero la palabra *despotismo* tenga otra acepcion que la que tiene entre los hombres libres. Si el Señor critico geometra tuviera una idea exacta de lo que significa esta horrorosa palabra, ó no la hubiera estampado en su carta, ó fuera mas consiguiente en sus raciocinios.

El segundo punto es la imputacion que me hace de haber hablado en mi carta contra el manifiesto elocuente y tierno del Rey. Si los datos que toma para resolver sus problemas, son semejantes à los que ha tomado para impugnarme, seguramente que saldràn tambien resueltos como el presente ¿Dónde y cuando he tomado en boca el manifiesto del Rey? ¿Confundirà todavia este Señor al Rey con los funcionarios del gobierno, como en aquellos tiempos tristes en què no podiamos hablar contra un golilla, contra un gobernador, contra un ministro sin ser calificados *de reos de lesa magestad*? No Señor mio, esos tiempos porque todavia suspiran algunos perillanes ya se fueron: y esperamos ciertas gentes rebeldes que no volverán. Las palabras que se citan como del manifiesto del Rey à los Americanos son las del Manifiesto de la Junta que està al frente del decreto para la convocacion de Córtes. Ahora, lo que contra esta se dice no es una maliciosa cabilacion, cuando mas seria una equivocacion, pues todo ello rueda bajo el supuesto de que fuera, como ha sido cierto la salida de barcos, oficiales y soldados para ir à cortinuar la guerra, antes de hacer proposiciones de paz; y en caso que salgan me ratifico en que huye de la España el fiero depotismo y va à la América llevando sus ensangrentadas cadenas. Mas yo espero que el Señor Cerquero se desengañarà dentro de poco, no solo de que ha sido cierto como todos lo saben, hasta con los nombres de los oficiales que debian seguir en la expedicion, sino que mis buenos deseos se logren, viendo revocar, por la sabiduria del gobierno semejante providencia.

No sé, mi amigo, si con la prisa de la salida del correo, y ese delirio que me vitupera nuestro buen geometra, y que me pone sobre el Tripode cuando se trata del bien pùblico, y de los intereses de mi adorada patria, le daré ahora tambien un nuevo margen par sus *chinchorrerías* y nuevas *victorias*. Mas sea lo que fuere allà va sin reserva, y con el permiso de que V. la corrija y publique, puesà lo ménos me queda el consuelo de haber confesado francamente mis culpas; quiera Dios que el Señor Sanchez Cerquero confiese tambien las suyas, y particularmente la de haberse metido à defensor de los opresores de la humanidad! Quedo de V. con el mayor aprecio y sincera amistad.=Del Valle à 2 de Mayo de 1820.=*Henrique Somoyar.*

(En S. Fernando, isla de Leon, imprenta de la Viuda de Periu.)

Corresponsales.

☞ El que nos ha dirigido un artículo comunicado bajo la firma "*El Republicano*," debe meditar que la materia de que trata es de aquellas que ó ha de ser examinada profunda y científicamente y con gran conocimiento de la disciplina de la Iglesia, ó no ha de ser tocada. Tratarla ligeramente, y reprobar sin dar otro fundamento que sus deseos, puede no tener por ahora sino efectos desagradables. Esperamos que "*El Republicano*" léjos de ofenderse de nuestras observaciones, las reciba con una indulgencia igual à nuestro deseo de agradar y ser útiles.

Angostura: impreso por Andres Roderick, *Impresor del Gobierno, calle de la Muralla.*

Correo del Orinoco.

Núm. 80. Angostura: Sábado 16 de Setiembre de 1820—10.° Tom. III.

BARCELONA.

Fragmento de un oficio del Sr. General Monagas al Sr. General en Gefe del Egército de Oriente.

Comandancia-general de la Provincia. } Cuartel-general Divisionario en el Canton del Güere à 31 de Agosto.

Señor General: El resultado de la comision del Comandante Torrealva, segun dije à V.S. en mi oficio del 26, ha sido que los Pueblos de San Pablo, San Lorenzo, San Francisco, San Miguel, Clarines y Piritù, han proclamado su Independencia de la monarquia española con la mayor adhesion à la justa causa, dando las mayores pruebas de entusiasmo: de la del Capitan Figueredo sobre Caigua y Pilar, aun no he tenido noticia, ni tampoco de la del Capitan Ramon Leon à los Pueblos de Santa-Ana, Chamariapa y San Joaquin, que todavía no me ha dado parte del resultado.

El Alferez de infantería, José Tirado, comandante militar del Pueblo de Piritú, y la Cordillera, por el Gobernador Sanyuz, me lo remitió el Comandante Torrealva, y queda en mi compañia: él dice que es criollo de Cumaná, y me ha dado por noticias que el Capitan José María Chauran dió muerte à un Comandante, un Mayor, y un oficial, Españoles; y se embarcó para Margarita: que esto lo sabe porque se lo escribió un amigo de Cariaco, que tampoco se lo afirma; y que se decia, que un Teniente, llamado Francisco Rivas, tramó una revolucion en Cumaná contra los Españoles, y que habiendo sido descubierto por una muger, tuvo la fortuna de escaparse, y unirse con el Coronel Montes.

Incluyo à V.S. toda la correspondencia que se ha tomado de Sanyuz para que se imponga del por menor de toda ella. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años—Señor General.—El General, Comandante-general de la Provincia.= *José T. Monagas.*

Revolucion en Carúpano.

Hemos tenido noticia de que los vecinos de Carúpano, sostenidos por la guarnicion que habia allí del batallon de Clarines, se alzaron contra parte de la guarnicion, que permanecia fiel al Rey, y la expelieron del pueblo à fuerza de armas. Aunque tenémos algunos detalles de este acontecimiento, preferimos sin embargo no publicarlos, hasta no recibirlos oficiales.

Constitucion Española en America.

☞ *El artículo* 371 *de la Constitucion española sanciona la libertad de la Imprenta; y la Constitucion española ha sido publicada y mandada observar por los que todavía dominan en Carácas. Sin embargo en gaceta de aquella ciudad de* 2 *de Agosto ùltimo, se lee el decreto siguiente:*

"Señor Alcalde constitucional de segunda dominacion: En vista de la calificacion que han hecho los cinco individuos, á cuya censura ha remitido V. el papel impreso por D. Juan Pey, que *contiene la órden general del egército del* 5 *al* 6 *del próximo pasado Julio, y un párrafo del Correo Constitucional de Mallorca del* 26 *de Abril ùltimo*; es mi dictámen que debe ser detenido dicho impreso, y recogerse los egemplares que se hubieren vendido; mandándose al impresor D. Juan Pey, que *comparezca al tribunal* con todos los que existan en su imprenta, é igualmente con el original por el que hizo la impresion, y el Correo Constitucional de Mallorca de donde tomó el párrafo inserto: que se forme una razon de todos los que presentare, y *se empaquete y sellen*, agregándose *los originales al* expediente: que *dé una razon jurada* de los sugetos que hayan comprado *egemplares*, à fin de que puedan *recogerse*: que se inserte en la gaceta el decreto que recayere à consecuencia de este dictámen para que llegando à noticia de los que los tengan, los entreguen en el Tribunal inmediatamente, *bajo la multa de* 25 *pesos*, con aplicacion à los gastos del egército: que de los que se recogieren y fueren entregados, se tome tambien razon en el expediente; y que hecho todo se dé cuenta *para las demas providencias* que correspondan. Carácas 1.° de Agosto de 1820.—*Licenciado Josef María Gragirena.* —De conformidad con el dictámen precedente egecùtese como en él se aconseja, compulsándose testimonio de esta determinacion, y pásese al Impresor de Gobierno al fin indicado.= *Linares.*"

☞ *A muchos ocurrirà la duda, despues de haber leido este artículo, de si el Alcalde de segunda nominacion sea, ó no, la junta-de-censura à quien por la voluntad de las Córtes y por la Constitucion toque examinar, ó nombrar examinadores, y condenar escritos de otro: y aun muchos pretenderán, que si toda pena debe ser impuesta por la ley, la multa, y el despojo de propiedad que se impone en esta sentencia, sobre no haber sido dictados por autoridad competente están en choque con la Constitucion española. Mas nosotros dejarémos la ventilacion de semejantes cuestiones à los que crean posible la repentina metamorfósis de que nos habla el General Morillo: y solo preguntarémos—*

¿Porqué era pecado en Carácas el primero de Agosto, y pecado mortal para el Impresor Pey, lo que el 5 *y* 6 *de Julio anterior no solo era permitido saber y publicar en Valencia, sino que fué necesario y aun obligatorio al egército?*

¿Porqué lo que era constitucional en Mallorca, y que como tal se permitía salir de allí y circular por entre todos los que lo pudiesen leer es digno de censura y de castigo en Carácas bajo la Constitucion del General Morillo? Colombianos! *No se han mudado: son sin duda los mismos.*

ARTICULO COMUNICADO.

Señor Redactor: En un periódico de Lóndres he adquirido noticia del real decreto que dió Fernando 7.° con fecha 25 de Diciembre del año pasado, mandando que à la mayor brevedad posible se coordine y se publique el *nuevo* código de Indias, cuyos trabajos empezaron en el reinado de Fernando 6.° siguieron en el de Càrlos 3.° y estaban ya concluidos en 1808, y que miéntras su publicacion estuviere pendiente se reimprima el antiguo por carecerse de su instruccion en los Magistrados à causa de falta de egemplares, y se facilite su repartimiento à todas las autoridades de ultramar, proporcionando la venta de los restantes à precio tan comodo, que no carezcan de él todos los demas vasallos que para instruirse apetezcan su lectura.

¡Qué fortuna es, Señor Redactor, depender de un Gobierno que emplea mas de medio siglo en formar nuevas ordenanzas para una parte de sus estados! Fernando 6.° el iniciador del nuevo código indiano falleció en 1759: su reinado empezó en 1746 y siendo por lo comun los primeros años los de las nuevas empresas, bien podrá fijarse la del nuevo código en el de 1750 à lo mas tarde: por consiguiente contamos ya 70 años, y la nueva obra aun no ha salido à luz. Hablémos sin figuras y compadezcamos la suerte de unos individuos que no teniendo ninguna parte en la formacion de sus leyes, tampoco les quedaba la esperanza de ver corregidas, ó mejoradas las que necesitaban de mejora ó correcion. Pasarian otros 70 años y el nuevo código se mantendria inedito, si las Indias en uso de sus derechos naturales y divinos no se encargasen de darse leyes, constitucion y gobierno.

Se dirà que el nuevo órden de cosas en España remediarà á tantos males. Si: ni mas, ni ménos como los remedió cuando por la primera vez apareció en 1812. Qué necios serian los que engañados entonces, reincidiesen ahora en el mismo engaño! Por mas que se mejora ese nuevo órden de cosas, no hay que esperar su establecimiento efectivo en América, no hay que contar con la observancia de sus principios. La razon ya es bien sabida, pero es preciso no cansarse de repetirla. Del todo contrarios à la legislacion de Indias serian los efectosque produgese el nuevo sistema de los Españoles liberales, si se plantease y observase en ellas: en lugar de esclavos, ignorantes, y supersticiosos produciria hombres libres, ilustrados, y cultos: producto odioso para quien no quiere sino que dependan perpetúamente de la península estas vastas regiones.

Al antiguo código de Indias deben los reyes de España la servidumbre de ellos por espacio de tres siglos: à él deben aquella flogedad, indolencia y apatia con que sus habitantes esperaron el éxito de la guerra de sucesion con los brazos cruzados: à ese degradante código son deudores de la fuerza armada, con que largo tiempo han combatido contra la independencia y bienestar de estos paises. La division entre Americanos patriotas, y Americanos antipatriotas, ó, lo que viene à ser lo mismo entre criollos liberales, y criollos sérviles ha sido el verdadero egército de la Corte de España en todos los territorios insurrectos, y no insurrectos de la América; y esta funesta division ha sido el fruto de las leyes de Indias. Desaparezcan estas trabas opresivas, y plantense en su lugar las instituciones liberales; y aparecerà el fruto de la union, base eterna de la independencia en toda la extension del nuevo mundo.

No podian ocultarse estas verdades à los compositores del nuevo código de Indias: asi pues debemos congeturarlo de la misma condicion que el antiguo, ó quiza mejor calculado para embrutecer y degradar. Ni se diga que siendo tal, habria sido ménos dilatada su publicacion; pues se responderá que hallándose acreditado el antiguo por una experiencia de siglos, no urgia su remplazo, ántes bien convenia la retardacion del nuevo para acallar con las esperanzas de reforma y mejoramiento los resentimientos y quejas que pudiesen haber producido los rayos de luz introducidos de contrabando contra la antigua legislacion, y su yugo insoportable.

Yo no sé cual será la conducta de las nuevas Córtes con respecto à este nuevo código, y reimpresion del antiguo. Cuando aparezca la que adopten para con los paises insurrectos podrá designarse cual sea la que tomen sobre los puntos que abraza el real decreto de Fernando de 25 de Diciembre. Lo que puede asegurarse desde luego es que por mas expresiones de brevedad que en él se encuentren, no son compatibles con el tiempo que se consume en la reimpresion en el repartimiento à todas las autoridades de ultramar y en la venta de los egemplares sobrantes. De muy poco, ó de nada debe valer la experiencia de lo pasado à los Americanos que todavía quieran perseverar contrarios à su patria, y à sus hermanos defensores de su causa, esperando el nuevo código

de Indias, y la observancia de las instituciones liberales de España en ultramar. Yo quisiera que dejasen de esperar para que su esperanza no se confundiese con la de otra gente desgraciada en este artículo: yo quisiera que al momento nos unieramos para que cesase la guerra, y empezasemos à gustar unidos los frutos de la paz, y de la emancipacion: Y lo quiero de tal suerte que les ruego y suplico vengan cuanto ântes á dar á la Patria uno de los dias mas venturosos que ella, y sus hijos desean.

UN COLOMBIANO.

ESPAÑA.

Extracto del periódico núm. 88 *titulado*

MISCELANEA

DE COMERCIO, ARTES Y LITERATURA.

Impreso en Madrid por D. Francisco Martinez Dâvila, impresor de Cámara de S. M.

La suerte de las Américas es un asunto que debe ocupar la atencion de la nacion y los cuidados del gobierno; pues se trata nada ménos que de asegurar la union de doce millones de almas, ó de que se separen de nosotros para siempre. Todos los gobiernos civilizados tienen los ojos fijos en la direccion de este grave negocio.

En el principio de nuestra gloriosa revolucion declararon las Córtes que las posesiones de América eran parte integrante de la monarquía española mas tambien lo habian sido desde el tiempo de la reina Isabel, que las incorporó y unió à la corona de Castilla. Las leyes de Indias mandaron borrar todo título, nombre ó idea de conquista; los Americanos fueron declarados vasallos libres al igual de los castellanos, y el Cuzco, Mégico y Tlascala fueron ciudades con voto en Cortes, y cuando antiguamente se ofreció, nombraron procuradores para ellas. Pero ¿de qué sirvieron estas declaraciones pomposas, hechas despues de haber despojado à los Americanos del dominio del pais junto con la propiedad del suelo, y despues de autorizar ó de tolerar cuando ménos, que vivieran en servidumbre en poder de los encomenderos, bajo el destructor sistema de repartimientos ó mita, que en poco tiempo consumió la mayoría de aquella útil porcion de nuestra especie? *Si, despues de esto, se les renuevan ahora las declaraciones de igualdad con los Españoles, y se les presenta el código constitucional* en donde están consignados los derechos de los habitantes de ámbos mundos, *¿creerán que se les habla de buena fé*, y qué van de cierto à ser felices como se les ofrece, *ó desconfiarán con la dura experiencia de los pasados infortunios?* ¿No es mas natural que suceda esto último, cuando vean que se envian fuerzas ya de tierra ó de mar, que aunque guiadas por las instrucciones mas humanas y políticas, presentan siempre un aspecto imponente y hostil?

Se trata de enviar una escuadrilla à la Costafirme, en el mismo instante en que nuestra costa del Mediterráneo se halla infestada de corsarios. ¿No seria mejor perseguir primero à estos? ¿Tendria presente él que propuso tal idea, que el senado romano llevó la guerra à Cartâgo cuando Roma estaba para ser asaltada por los guerreros de aquella formidable República?

Los medios que debe emplear una metrópoli para mantener en quietud à sus colonias, siendo grandes y distantes, han sido un largo objeto de discusion entre los políticos. La historia de todas las naciones y de todos los siglos nos prueba, que una sociedad grande, poderosa, con recursos propios, separada por una gran distancia de su metrópoli, se mantendrá unida à ella por los vínculos de la sangre, del idióma, la religion y las costumbres, miéntras no se sienta con fuerzas para defenderse y ocurrir à sus necesidades. De aquí parece poder inferirse, que no hay medios en política capaces de evitar tarde ó temprano una separacion de las colonias distantes; pero si los hay para retardar [illegible] que sea posible esta separacion, y sacrificarla cuando llegue el caso sin un rompimiento. *¿Y de qué servirá entonces enviar fuerzas à las Américas? ¿No está ya bastante conocido, que cuando mucho, poseerán el terreno que pisen*, como sucedió à los franceses en España?

Miéntras que se trata de enviar fuerzas à América, nada se dice de la variacion de Gefes en aquellas provincias. Puede, à la verdad, el gobierno haber dado sus disposiciones en este particular sin haberlas comunicado; pero no sabemos que ninguno se haya embarcado para llevar à los resentidos Americanos el iris constitucional; y verificarse la variacion entre los que están allí, envegecidos todos ó los mas en el sistema pasado, no es mas que variar de nombres. *No hay remedio; es un error imaginarse que admitan todos la Constitucion, y respiren el aire de la libertad bajo la ferula de las autoridades que los han oprimido.* A nuestra vista tenemos egemplos de donde deducirlo. ¿No fué rechazado el General Elio por el pueblo Valenciano, cuando queria presentarse à su frente en la publicacion de la Constitución? ¿Manifestaron los Gaditanos su alegría por tan fausto suceso, miéntras no fueron separados los gefes que autorizaron las atrocidades del 10 de Marzo? A fé que si no hubieran sido reemplazados estos por otros conocidos por patriotas, ésta seria la hora que en Cádiz no se habria dado un viva à la Constitucion, aunque se hubiera publicado veinte veces.

Los Americanos Españoles son dignos de ser tratados no solo con justicia y liberalidad, sino con una especie de predileccion. *Desde el descubrimiento de aquel hemisfério han sufrido, en trueque de las inmensas riquezas que nos han dado, el yugo de un poder absoluto y arbitrario, igual ó mayor al de la península, y en estos últimos diez años ha sido aquel hermoso país el teatro de una guerra de devastacion, en que se han despreciado y hollado recíprocamente* (1) *todos los derechos naturales y sociales.* Ni debemos desentendernos de que aun con el pleno goce de las ventajas constitucionales, se hallan aquellos pueblos à muchos centenares de leguas de nosotros, y que para que vengan aqui los representantes de sus derechos, deben vencer las dificultades de un largo y peligroso viage, y sufrir aun para las providencias del poder egecutivo los retardos necesarios à tan inmensa distancia. Si el Rey no quisiese tener su Corte en Madrid, y pues no tiene restriccion por las leyes que le impida establecerla donde guste, pensase trasladarla à Lima ó Mégico, que son ciudades de la monarquía española, ¿estaríamos contentos los peninsulares? Me parece que no solo no seria así, sino que lo impediríamos si pudiesemos. Pues ya que en este punto, que no es de poco momento, no pueden igualársenos los Americanos, por mas igualdad que les demos, supla à lo ménos esta falta la conducta liberal y deferente del gobierno àcia ellos.

Por último, no debemos considerar ya el hemisfério Colombiano, como una plaza conquistada, cuyo botin nos pertenece exclusivamente, y donde el que mas presa hacia era el mas considerado en el gobierno. Las Américas ofrecen campo bastante al comercio de todo el mundo; y la nacion que en esta crisis sepa manejar mejor sus intereses, será la mas aventajada en el. Nadie mejor que la España puede sacar este partido, pues que sobre otras ventajas, tiene en su mano hacer cesar de una vez las calamidades de aquel país, en las partes que aun no han roto su union con ella, y en todas, si admiten desde luego la Constitucion como deben hacerlo las que conozcan bien sus intereses(2). Bajo este benéfico sistema, esta reconciliacion con la península será, mas que dependencia real, una union por recíproca conveniencia(3). El fomento de nuestra marina mercante para sostenerlos con ventajas, y el de la militar para protegerlos, y no para hostilizarlos, son puntos de mucho momento(4). Los pueblos que reusen esta union fraternal caeran en los horrores de la guerra civil, que se anuncia ya en los países separados de nosotros, y que asegurará en las manos del mas valiente ó del mas hâbil un cetro de hierro, mucho mas duro acaso que el que los ha regido hasta ahora, aunque con la triste satisfaccion de tenerlo en su mismo centro(5).

Estás y otra reflexiones que à los Americanos ocurriràn mejor que à nosotros, ¿no harán si en el gobierno hay cordura y conocimiento, que se decidan todas por la constitucion? =*J. V.*

(1.) ¿Recíprocamente? La experiencia prueba lo contrario: mas no olvidemos que este escritor aunque ilustrado, es español, y que escribia en Madrid.

(2.) Esas son las que ménos deben admitirla, porque sus intereses son incompatibles con ella, y en manos de egecutores Européos tendria las mismas ó mayores infracciones que agravaron mas el yugo de los Americanos que la admitieron en 1812. Que Morillo sin Constitucion fuese atros no es tan notable como el que lo fuesen Monteverde, Zuazola, Boves, Yañez, y Morales en Venezuela, cuando subsistia el sistema constitucional, y cuando todos ellos estaban ligados con el juramento que le otorgaron. Las provincias que conocian bien sus intereses no la admitieron entonces, y fueron por tanto exentas de estas atrocidades, y del poder arbitrario que egercieron en Mégico y Lima los Virreyes, Venegas, Callejas, y Abascal, siendo todos constitucionales. Los paises insurrectos de la América que han conocido bien sus intereses se han dado constituciones correspondientes à ellos, mas liberales que la española y del todo exentas de los gravísimos inconvenientes que confiesa el periódico de Madrid, y que son inseparables de todo gobierno que obra à tanta distancia de los gobernados.

(3.) Mas ventajosa es la union y recíproca conveniencia que resulta de los pactos que pueden hacer dos, ó mas Estados independientes y soberanos. Sobre este pie siempre hemos deseado, y procurado la amistad, y paz, la deseamos y procuramos, y no admitirémos ninguna proposicion ni tratado que perjudique la independencia y soberanía de Colombia.

(4.) Y ¿cuando llegaria à ser esta marina capaz de contrarrestar à la Inglesa, y Americana del Norte? Y miéntras llegase el tiempo de esa capacidad ¿quién sostendria, y protegeria el comercio, y comunicacion de estos remotos paises, cuando llegase el caso de un rompimiento con aquellas potencias marítimas, ó cualquiera de ellas?

(5.) Es una lastima que caiga en este error una pluma que no es vulgar. Esa guerra civil y todo el tren que se le da en su seguito, ha servido siempre à los opresores, y sus partidarios para hacer el *coco* à los oprimidos, y mantenerlos en la opresion: con ese espantajo han sido intimidados muchas veces los que no han consultado la historia de las revoluciones, los que no se han entregado à la experiencia, cuando la dignidad del hombre lo exigia. Ateneamonos al resultado, y no temamos como los gentiles à agoreros y profetas. Si alguna vez acertaren en sus pronósticos, se hallará que el mal resultó no de la naturaleza del desprendimiento, sino de las intrigas y cabalas de los mismos que lo contrariaban. No es de esperarse el cumplimiento de la profesia en unos pueblos que en la escuela de una guerra de 10 años han conocido bien à sus enemigos, y han aprendido lo que estos les prohibian imaginar: en unos pueblos que tienen à la vista el modelo excelente de las Repúblicas del Norte: y que desde los primeros pasos de su insurreccion han formado, y practicado constituciones tales que los preservan de caer en los horrores de una guerra civil, y bajo el cetro de hierro que nos anuncia el periodista de Madrid, y que en todo evento nunca llegaria à ser tan pesado, degradante, y funesto como el de los Austriácos y Borbones que han reinado en España.

TERCERA CARTA

De un Americano à un Amigo suyo.

He leido, mi querido amigo, con mucho gusto las juiciosas observaciones del Señor Mier en su *artículo remitido*, que V. me acompaña con el Diario de Cádiz de 10 del corriente. Cuando se tratan materias de tanta gravedad y transcendencia asi es que se debe hablar: nada importa que el Señor Mier y yo no estemos acordes en muchos puntos, él expone con moderacion sus opiniones, yo expongo con calor y quizà con alguna exaltacion las mias, y en esto no hacemos mas que conformarnos con las aptitudes en que nos hallamos: no habla el enfermo lleno de dolores con la misma serenidad y parsimonia que el cirujano que lo cura. ¡Ojalà que en mis cartas no hubiera mas defectos que el calor conque expongo mis opiniones! Pero se toca à otros puntos muy graves à que creo preciso contestar, porque deseo que del choque salga la luz, y que el pùblico nos juzgue. Nunca me parece mas importante esta materia que en el dia, en que los escritos pùblicos deben preparar las discusiones de las Córtes, ofreciendo de antemano materiales, sobre todo fijando las ideas sobre ciertas palabras cuya mala inteligencia puede ocasionar gravisimos males.

Es preciso pues, que el Señor Mier y cuantos me critiquen tengan la bondad de criticar lo que digo, y no lo que me suponen. Mis *virulentas declamaciones* eran precisamente contra una providencia en que el mismo Señor Mier conviene, y no creé *que haya un solo Español dispuesto à contradecirlas*; esto es, en que era impolítico y absurdo mandar fuerzas para que continuase esa bárbara guerra, al tiempo que conforme à las

benéficas intenciones del Rey se les debia enviar à los Americanos el ramo de Oliva convidàndolos à la paz. Si se duda de la salida de los barcos que se lea la *Miscelanea* número 79, en donde estàn los nombres y los destinos para donde debian dirigirse; y si se duda de su objeto que se lea la carta inserta en la gaceta de la isla número 7, y alli se conocerà. Pero lo que en un todo confirma mi asercion son estas palabras de la Real órden de 25 de Abril inserta en el diario de Càdiz de 5 del presente: "que por ahora se suspenda el envio *de tropas à América* aun en la clase de voluntarios. En su consecuencia y en el decreto de su comunicacion se añade: "El Excmo. Señor General en Gefe manda que à los *Oficiales à quienes se habia prevenido estar prontos para embarcarse para el egército de Costafirme.....*" Tenemos pues, que habia barcos, que habia tropas, que habia oficiales para ir al egército de Costafirme ¿en qué consiste entonces que se llame *quimérico miedo de ver repetirse espantosas escenas de sangre y horror*? ¿Y van estos barcos, estas tropas y estos oficiales à llevar indulgencias plenarias ó à reforzar à Morillo para que continuase *esta guerra civil, que como las de religion, lleva un carácter horroroso de atrocidad*? Y si esto es asi, como nadie puede dudarlo ¿no es mucho mejor decirlo claro para que un gobierno sàbio como el actual reforme sus providencias que el seguirlo adulando como en los tiempos pasados para que continue sus yerros y los multiplique? Para mi modo de pensar es mas grande, mas bello ver à un gobierno reformando una providencia injusta ó impolitica que se le escapa, que el no haberla dictado: no està en nuestra mano dejar de errar alguna vez, pero si està el enmendar ó corregir nuestros yerros. Nada presagia tan fuertemente la futura felicidad de la España como esta docilidad virtuosa del gobierno, esta decision heróica del Monarca à seguir lo justo desde el momento que se le presenta la verdad. No lo abusemos pues, no le desfigurémos sus providencias, no lo engañemos, hablemosle siempre el santo lenguage de la libertad que ya no lo rodean los Lozanos ni los Eguias, ¿A qué viene decir que eran cuatro barcos de guerra que se supone iban solo contra los corsarios que ultrajan la bandera española y que infectan los mares? ¿A qué Americano por estùpido que fuera le pudiera ocurrir el vituperar que se protegiese y defendiese el comercio Español interin cesan nuestras desavenencias? Como tampoco hay Americano tan idiota que fuera à comparar al cura Morelos con Riego; pero que el inmortal Riego sea un héroe como lo es, y el cura Morelos un sanguinario(1), no prueba que la causa porque peleaban tenga la misma disparidad. Concluyo este punto protestando à la faz del Cielo y de la Tierra que mi corazon esta intimamente penetrado de que las palabras del virtuoso Monarca *dejar las armas y entenderse*, son las que convienen à àmbos mundos: y que esta persuasion fué la que me hizo clamar con calor para que no se tomaran, y la que me obliga con gusto à bendecir su nombre porque las ha mandado suspender.

Omito hablar sobre la poblacion de América, aunque tengo padrones y datos bastante exactos de toda ella porque este punto lo creo por ahora ya poco urgente y porque me llama toda la atencion la última proposicion.

"No podemos omitir, dice el Señor Mier, de "detenernos sobre su última proposicion, à saber: "que la *emancipacion* absoluta, ó por hablar mas "claro, *la separacion* ha de llenar à la España "de gloria, de esplendor y de poder." No es preciso Señor mio *perderse en las nubes* ni seguirme allà para entender mi proposicion: lo que es preciso es que acà en la tierra nos pongamos acordes sobre estas palabras que V. quiere volver sinónimas: *emancipacion y separacion*, como algunos de mis paisanos lo hacen con las de *union y esclavitud*. Depongàmos las armas de la prevencion por una y otra parte y entendamonos: *las Américas se pueden emancipar sin que se separen, y pueden estar unidas sin ser esclavas*. Creo que todos convendrémos en que para unirse dos personas pueblos ó naciones es requisito necesario que tengan voluntad y libertad de unirse; porque si no tienen voluntad y se les une por la fuerza, ya no serà union sino *sugecion*, y en este caso si es sinónimo de esclavitud, por mas ventajosa que se la suponga: un jornalero hace los mismos servicios que un esclavo, y no obstante el primero es libre y el otro no ¿y en qué consiste esta diferencia? en que el primero lo hace por su voluntad, y el segundo por la fuerza. Pero ya oigo que se me dice: suponiendo que sea posible esa union ¿con qué la aseguraremos desde el momento que se deje à los Americanos en entera libertad? Respondo que con la doble y fuertisima cadena de la necesidad, del interés, y de la justicia. Es tan cierto que las Américas necesitan las relaciones y proteccion de una nacion de Europa, como lo es su decidida determinacion de morir àntes que volverse à ver bajo la dominacion de los Visires que por tantos años los han vejado y exterminado; con que si se insiste en obligarlos à ceder por la fuerza ¿cuàl es la consecuencia que naturalmente se presenta à un hombre de mediana lógica? Que si no se pueden defender, se entregaràn por desesperacion à cualquiera otra potencia que les ofrezca algunas ventajas, y en este caso será cuando habrà una verdadera *separacion*. Este peligro es tanto mas temible cuanto el Señor Mier nos dice: *que no puede ocultarsenos que los Anglo-americanos, los Ingleses y otros estàn asechando el instante de la separacion para apoderarse de lo que nos queda del comercio*. ¿Pues qué no haran cuando se les abran enteramente las puertas y se pongan en sus manos? Esto es lo que yo deseo evitar con todos mis fuerzas, y por cuyo deseo suplico se me perdone cualquier acaloramiento, ó exaltacion en mis raciocinios. Insisto pues, en que la separacion, y no la emancipacion serà la que ponga las Américas en manos de otra potencia con notable daño de la España; y en que la emancipacion es el ùnico y verdadero medio de asegurarlas para siempre, sin gastos, sin violencias y con notable utilidad. Supongamos, para acabarnos de convencer, que el Soberano Congreso Nacional persuadido de esta verdad, digera à los Americanos: "Hijos "mios, los acontecimientos de la Europa han "acelerado el tiempo de vuestra emancipacion, "que sin ellos quizàs seria prematura: estableced "unos gobiernos que hagan vuestra felicidad, "y con que podamos contar con seguridad: "reconoced la primacia de la madre que os ha "dado el ser: demosnos el ósculo de paz, y "juremosnos una union eterna para nuestra mùtua seguridad." Pregunto yo ahora ¿serà posible, serà ni siquiera verosimil que los Americanos despreciando este heróico rasgo de magnanimidad, desconocido hasta ahora en las naciones modernas despreciando su mismo interés, prefieran à otra nacion extraña con distinto idioma, distinta religion, y diferentes costumbres? Si hay quien me diga que esto es posible, le respondo decididamente que no conoce el corazon humano: que no sabe lo que son los hàbitos y costumbres de los pueblos: que ignora el poderoso influjo de la religion y del idioma. Dejémosnos de citar casos particulares de imaginaciones exaltadas, nosotros no podemos dejar de ser Españoles, de hablar el mismo idioma, de venerar la religion de nuestros padres, de tener las mismas costumbres, de conservar nuestras relaciones de intereses de familias con los de la peninsula, *sino se hacen violentos esfuerzos para arrancarnos unos bienes tan queridos*.

Ya sé la respuesta que se va à dar à todo lo que dejo dicho, y es que con la Constitucion queda todo esto remediado sin necesidad de emancipacion. Este es uno de los errores mas arraigados, y que parece mas plausible para los que miran las cosas por lo que suenan, y que no reflexionan en los tiempos y los lugares. Jamas llegarà la sabiduria ni el poder de los hombres à hacer que unas leyes particulares sean igualmente benéficas à dos regiones muy distantes emanando de una sola de ellas; para esto seria preciso que una palanca no aumentara de peso alargàndose de su punto de apoyo, lo que es fisicamente imposible. Dénsele cuantas vueltas se quiera à la Constitucion, prodiguense las expresiones mas liberales en favor de los Americanos, miéntras su legislacion y sus Jueces salgan de 200 leguas de distancia jamas serán otra cosa que simples colonos mas ó ménos oprimidos, porque no puede ser otra cosa, porque es imposible que lo sea. Si en el centro mismo del gobierno es tan dificil mantener la integridad de los Jueces ¿qué serà al otro lado del oceano en donde es tan facil eludir el imperio de la ley? ¿Como se piensa que podamos asegurar nuestra libertad individual, nuestra seguridad personal con leyes y jueces remitidos desde tanta distancia? No hay Español ilustrado en el dia que no confiese con ingenuidad nuestros enormes sufrimientos en la administracion de justicia; pero la atribuyen solo à la antigua forma de gobierno, sin confesar ó conocer la verdadera causa. Lo mismo sucede con los medios de nuestro fomento, *y la arbitrariedad de los gefes* en aquellos remotos paises, *que ya hemos experimentado constitucionalmente*. La libertad misma de la imprenta, esta preciosa ley tan ùtil en España, no es mas que un lazo en América para nuevas pesquizas y prisiones, de que pudiera citar algunos egemplos en el poco tiempo que se puso en practica. "Como los "gobernadores que envia la metrópoli, dice "un sàbio de nuestros dias, no miran el país "que gobiernan como aquel en que deben pasar "toda su vida, y gozar del descanso y estimacion pùblica, ningun interes tienen en hacerlo feliz y rico.....Si à esto se añade el poder "casi arbitrario que es preciso conceder à los "que van à gobernar à paises remotos, tendré"mos ya reunidos todos los elementos de que en "general se componen los gobiernos mas malos." Agréguese à esto ese efugio terrible que les queda à los gobernantes de suponernos siempre el conato à la independencia para formarnos causas de estado con el menor pretesto, y juzguese si los que ahora estàn libres de este susto continuo, querran facilmente someterse à un delito que hoy no conocen.

Nos resta hablar de la gloria y utilidad que le traeria à España el decreto de la emancipacion de la América. "El haber perdido la Ingla"terra sus colonias de la América septentrional "ha sido para esta nacion una *verdadera ganan"cia*, dice Say, *de cuya verdad no sé si alguno* "*ha dudado*. No obstante esto, ha hecho du"rante la guerra de América un gasto extraor"dinario *é inútil* de diez y ocho millones solo "para conservarlas. ¡Qué càlculo tan lasti"moso! Hubiera podido ganar lo mismo, "hacer independientes sus colonias sin gastar "para ello un maravedi, ahorrar la sangre de "sus soldados, y dar à los ojos de la Europa y "de la historia *el sublime egemplo de la genero"sidad*." Parece que con solo este rasgo de una pluma tan recomendable en toda la Europa, estaba satisfecho el cargo que se me hace de haberme perdido en las nubes por haber asentado que la emancipacion absoluta llenaria de gloria, de esplendor y de poder à la España; pero quiero explicarme un poco mas.

El Señor Mier nos dice que en el siglo presente una nacion grande necesita agricultura, industria, fabricas, comercio exterior, y si tiene costas ha de tener marina. Convenimos en un todo, pero añade, *y sin las Américas la España no tendrà ni marina, ni esplendor, ni poder*. En esto no convenimos, ni podemos convenir, aun en la suposicion quimérica de que la independencia que se decretaba dejase à la España sin Américas; porque para esto seria preciso que el Señor Mier nos hiciera ver que la España àntes del descubrimiento de la América no habia tenido agricultura, comercio, fabricas ni marina, lo que esta claramente desmentido por la historia; pues esta nos dice que desde mediados del siglo 15 al 16 que fué cuando se descubrió la América, sus manufacturas de seda y lana llegaban à ocupar mas de un millon de hombres en 130 mil telares: que los paños de Segovia, Cuenca y Cataluña se vendian en toda Europa, Berberia y Levante: que sus tenerias eran numerosas y de la mejor calidad; y que hasta mediados del siglo 16 la España pasó por una de las Naciones mas comerciantes y mas industriosas. Hablando de los siglos 12, 13 y 14, nos dice que su agricultura haria hoy honor à las naciones mas adelantadas: que era inmenso el comercio que se hacia en la peninsula y particularmente en Aragon: que Barcelona, Almeria y Valencia pasaban por las ciudades mas comerciantes de la Europa: que Barcelona sola mantenia muchos navios armados para proteger sus costas: que los buques mercantes formaban una marina muy crecida, y que eran construidos con madera de sus bosques: que en tiempo de los Romanos las minas de plata de cerca de Cartagena daban hasta 672 millones al año. Pero no es esto solo lo que desmiente la asercion del Señor Mier, sino que la mayor parte de los economistas atribuyen la decadencia de la España al descubrimiento de la América, y no sin razon dice Flores de Estrada que *la España desde el descubrimiento del nuevo mundo comenzó à caminar precipitadamente ácia su ruina: que el dinero traido de América acabó con sus artes y su agricultura.*

(1) ¡¡Morelos sanguinario!! Mas escribe en Tetuan.

Es verdad que con la guerra de Ultramar Cádiz ha perdido toda su opulencia, pero ¿porqué la ha perdido? la ha perdido porque està en guerra con aquellas regiones; porque ha hecho sacrificios enormes para arruinar aquellos manantiales de su riqueza: por que ha hecho todo lo contrario de lo que debia hacer: pongase en paz, y volverà à elevarse al grado de riqueza à que es llamada por su situacion.

Pero lo que debe aclarar esta cuestion y acabar de correr el velo misterioso que nos cubre, es esta pregunta ¿Se concede à los Americanos conforme à la Constitucion el comercio libre, ó no? Si no se concede, como sucedió en las Còrtes pasadas, no se diga que somos iguales en derechos y la guerra es inevitable; si se concede, en este caso, segun los principios del Señor Mier, los Anglo-americanos, los Ingleses, y otros se apoderaràn de nuestro comercio, y venimos à parar en el mismo inconveniente que se quiere evitar con no concederles la emancipacion. Supongàmos ahora que se concede ésta, pero que se concede bajo todas aquellas condiciones que la prudencia y el interés recíproco de àmbos mundos exige de necesidad y de justicia en las actuales circunstancias en que nos hallamos ¿qué serà lo que pierda Cadiz y toda la nacion? Yo creo que ganarà muchísimo. Ganarà recuperar el amor de aquellos pueblos: ganarà asegurarse un comercio que està expuesto à perder: ganarà el ahorro de los sacrificios en hombres y dinero que tiene que hacer para sugetarlas: ganarà el restablecimiento de sus fabricas, de su agricultura, de su comercio y de su marina: ganarà el tiempo precioso que una guerra destructora le quitaria para reponerse prontamente: ganarà el no exponerse à nuevas reuniones de tropas àntes de que la opinion pùblica en el nuevo sistema este bien establecida; y ganarà finalmente una gloria inmortal dando al mundo un egemplo de magnanimidad y de justicia, solo propia de una nacion que desde su mayor abatimiento ha fijado repentimiente el asombro y la admiracion de la Europa por su moderacion y su sabiduria.

Esta es una ojeada ràpida, mi amigo, sobre las grandes verdades que deben hoy mas que nunca llamar la atencion de los hombres amantes de la humanidad y de la Nacion. La suerte de dos mundos, su felicidad ó sus làgrimas van à depender de un rasgo de pluma! Quiera el cielo que tan propicio se ha mostrado hasta ahora en la gran regeneracion que estamos palpando, y aun no creemos continuar sus bendiciones sobre la España, y su angélica Monarca! ¡Quiera extenderlas sobre aquellos desgraciados paises, cuya sangre derramada à torrentes pide ya de justicia que se enjuguen sus làgrimas! ¡Y quiera en fin, mi amigo, concedernos à V. y à mi el consuelo de ir à depositar nuestras cenizas al lado de nuestros padres, despues de haber tenido el consuelo de ver terminada la guerra, y decretada nuestra futura felicidad.=Del Valle à 12 de Marzo de 1820.= *Henrique Somoyar.*

(En S. Fernando, isla de Leon, imprenta de la Viuda de Periu.)

OPINIONES SOBRE FERNANDO VII.

(Tomadas del *Español Constitucional*, nùm. 21.)

¿Debe el próximo Congreso Nacional deponer del trono à Fernando VII.; ó colocar en sus manos el cetro constitucional de España?

Con arreglo à los principios de la mas sana política, y fundàndonos en las autoridades de los mas sàbios Estadistas de Europa, hemos demostrado ya en los nùmeros anteriores de este Periódico, que Fernando VII., desde que à punta de bayoneta derribó en 1814 el sagrado código de las leyes constitucionales que el heróico pueblo Español se dió à simismo por un efecto de su plena soberanía, no fué mas que un usurpador y un rey intruso, à manera de *José Napoleon*. La fuerza nunca ha constituido un derecho legal; y asi puede asegurarse, con toda evidencia, que las inclitas (aunque desgraciadas) insurrecciones de los heróicos *Porlier, Lacy, Vidal, &c.* han sido tan legítimas como el venturoso alzamiento del Egército Nacional, acaudillado por los inmortales *Riego* y *Quiroga*: alzamiento divino, que ha llevado en pos de si la decision valiente de todo el pueblo Español. Despues de los sucesos del 8 y 9 de Marzo en Madrid, en que Fernando VII. ha ofrecido jurar en el seno del Congreso Nacional la Constitucion sancionada en 1812, este principe se halla en un caso *parecido en cierto modo* al que mediaba en su regreso à España desde Valencey. Decimos "parecido en cierto modo," porque en realidad de verdad Fernando VII., despues de su inaudito despotismo de seis años seguidos, todavia era ménos acreedor à las bondades de la nacion española. En efecto, hasta que el próximo Congreso Nacional se digne disculpar los delitos de Fernando, y darle un cetro constitucional, que él habia reusado empuñar, no puede decirse que este principe sea verdadero rey, por mas que se le llame tal, y por mas que el hàbito de obedecerle 6 años, por la fuerza, haya hecho que las personas militares y civiles, que le rodean, se presten à la observancia de sus òrdenes, ó decretos. O estos decretos son legales, ò no lo son. Si lo primero, para que se sigan obedeciendo, no necesita Fernando jurar la Constitucion en el seno del Congreso. Si son ilegales, ¿porqué se obedecen, como si dimanaran de una autoridad legítima?.....¡Qué contradiccion! ¡Qué confusion de ideas!

No sabemos cómo no se ha establecido ya (hasta la reunion del Congreso) un gobierno patriótico interino, compuesto de 3, ó 5 grandes patriotas políticos, à propuesta de todas las Juntas Provinciales, à fin de gobernar la nacion, y dar las providencias mas urgentes, que requieren las circunstancias. Si en lugar de la Junta *deliberativa* y numerosa de Madrid.....

Por todas estas consideraciones, nos parece muy conducente el que se ventile con serenidad é imparcialidad la cuestion arriba insinuada; y hemos juzgado que el *voto* de un ilustrado patriota inglés (amigo sincero y perenne de los Españoles), debiamos presentarlo à nuestros conciudadanos, no precisamente para que lo sigan, sino para que hagan sobre él las reflexiones oportunas, que les dicte su patriotismo y su moderada circunspeccion. Este ilustrado y filantrópico Inglés es el Editor del *Examinar* de Lóndres, publicista (en nuestra opinion) el mas profundo y sàbio, de que puede gloriarse la Nacion Inglesa. En el nùmero del Domingo 2 de Abril dice asi:

" Todas estas reformas *(la abolicion de la Inquisicion, el cambio de ministerio, de embajadores, &c.)* las atribuimos à las personas que tienen en Madrid la direccion de los negocios, no à Fernando, porque creemos efectivamente que el pobre angelito no las haria por simismo. El tiene miedo sobrado para descender hasta el mas bajo punto de degradacion; pero su miedo no obraria de un modo tan acorde y prudente. Si le hubieran dejado obrar por si, à la menor cesacion del peligro inminente, hubiera enseñado otra vez las encorvadas garras del despotismo; y por eso los patriotas, que se hallan con poder, estàn trabajando incesantemente por la restauracion del saludable estado de los negocios, sin que les arredren los negros ardides de dilacion y oposicion, de que se valen los reluctantes abdicadores de la corrupcion. Entre las pruebas de que Fernando es enteramente pasivo durante estos cambios, una es el mismo Manifiesto suyo à la Nacion, publicado en su nombre. Està escrito en un sentido liberal, y con mucho conocimiento de la naturaleza humana, y *disculpa* en efecto al *Real Delinquente* del mejor modo posible. La fuerza de su argumento se reduce à esto: ' que en su regreso à España, por lo que observó desde luego creyó que los Españoles deseaban volver à su *antigua* forma de gobierno; que satisfizo este aparente deseo, aunque al mismo tiempo él sabia muy bien que el estado de la sociedad moderna era incompatible con *todo* ese *antiguo* órden de cosas; y que miéntras estaba meditando sobre los medios de concertar estas dificultades *(¡Despues de 6 años!)* la nacion se habia pronunciado claramente en favor de la Constitucion de 1812, que él en consecuencia habia adoptado inmediatamente.' Concluye Fernando exortando al pueblo à que dé un egemplo de sabiduria y moderacion, en un periodo en que otras Naciones le han dado de violencia y calamidades: ¡excelente consejo à la verdad, pero que el pueblo ya le habia adoptado anticipadamente! Esta *moderacion* es en efecto el alma del *Manifiesto*, y no dudamos que con la mejor intencion del mundo haya sido esto arreglado por los que piensan que el nuevo órden de cosas se establecerà mas tranquilamente, absteniéndose de destronar à Fernando. Empero nosotros tenemos distinta opinion en este punto, y expondremos nuestras razones.

" La anterior paliacion (ó emplastamiento) de la conducta de Fernando (observese esto à fin de precaver la mala conclusion, à saber: que los asombrosos sucesos, que se han verificado durante su adversidad, *nada* le han instruido), admite que sus ojos estaban un poco abiertos à las intelectuales reclamaciones del siglo. En esto mismo fundaremos nuestro argumento. Regresa Fernando à España; pero su escaso rayo de luz le pone sin embargo en disposicion de ver, que no puede sentarse tranquilamente en su trono, sin prometer Còrtes, y asi hace la promesa. (Esto no comprueba mucho la inocente equivocacion decantada en el Manifiesto). El segundo paso es enviar à calabozos y presidios horribles à las personas mas beneméritas de España, que le han conservado, y restaurado à un trono, que no merecia!!! En seguida se sienta muy tranquilo para meditar lo que està haciendo por espacio de 6 años, à pesar de los avisos que se le han dado con las insurrecciones de Porlier, Lacy, Vidal, &c. y con las patrióticas *Representaciones*, que han zumbado en sus retirados oidos. Nada diremos en cuanto al crédito que merece esta simple historia. Aunque posible, pocos la creeràn. Pero nadie, à buen seguro, atribuirà su bàrbara ingratitud contra sus libertadores à un sentimiento de solo necesidad de Estado: pues prueba una crueldad y vileza en un grado nada comun. La cuestion, pues, nos parece que està reducida à esto: El pueblo Español con mucho trabajo ha restablecido ahora las cosas al estado en que se hallaban en 1814, despues de sufrir 6 años de los mas indignos desastres y opresiones. Al pueblo, pues, toca decidir, por medio de sus Representantes ¿si ha de poner otra vez su confianza en un príncipe, que ha vendido à la nacion en el mas importante de todos los contratos; si han colocar de nuevo al frente de la Nacion à un hombre, que ha descubierto tal mixto de crueldad y cobardia, y cometido tan monstruosos crímenes durante su usurpacion de 6 años, que su mejor excusa seria su excesiva ignorancia ó demencia? ¿Es esta la cabeza que corresponde à una nacion como la Española, que dos veces con su magnanimidad en pocos años ha llenado de admiracion el Universo? ¿Es este el *idolo real*, aunque la Constitucion le dejara solo la sombra del poder, ante quien se han de postrar unos hombres, como *Riego, Quiroga, Mina, Ballesteros*, y millares de heróicos Españoles? ¿Y todos los empleados del Estado los ha de nombrar un reptil semejante? ¿Todas esas personas injuriadas y gloriosas, que han sido desterradas y privadas por él de la luz del Cielo, han de recibir de la mano de su opresor los honores y destinos debidos à sus talentos y servicios? La justicia y la razon lo reprueban.

" Si por el destronamiento de Fernando peligrase la Constitucion, si este principe hubiera mostrado la mas mínima sinceridad, ó sus propios sentimentos en su modo de acceder à la fuerza popular, nos inclinaríamos à que reinase, como una materia de apoyo y dignidad. Pero segun le ha hecho Dios, esperamos y confiamos en que el próximo Congreso Nacional desechará sus involuntarios juramentos y protestas, y le expelerà del trono, estando bien seguros sus miembros de que no tendrian ningun otro inconveniente pùblico. Enhorabuena que no le toquen à un pelo de la cabeza; pero consignésele bajo el religioso cuidado del Papa, ó bajo la inmediata proteccion de su tio, el Borbon de Nàpoles.

" Despues de escrito lo enunciado, hemos visto el *Star* (periódico) de ayer noche, que dice haberse recibido una carta de Paris, que asegura que ' El rey de España ha escrito al rey de Francia, que él solo ha prestado el juramento de mantener la Constitucion de las Còrtes, à fin de evitar su destronamiento; pero que sus sentimientos permanecian inalterables.' El mismo periódico dice que se habia abstenido de dar esta noticia, hasta que la vió confirmada en otro papel pùblico, con la adicion, que Fernando habia extendido secretamente una protesta contra su juramento, como forzado; y que la remitió à una cabeza de familia en Paris, para que se archive hasta que sea necesaria!!! Si este hecho horrible llega à salir cierto, creemos que el Soberano Congreso Nacional no vacilarà un momento en egecutar lo que hemos recomendado arriba."

Angostura: impreso por Andres Roderick, *Impresor del Gobierno, calle de la Muralla.*

Correo del Orinoco.

Núm. 81. Angostura: Sábado 23 de Setiembre de 1820—10.° Tom. III.

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

SIMON BOLIVAR, Presidente de la Repùblica, General en Gefe del Egército Libertador, &c. &c. &c.

A las tropas del Egercito Español.

PROCLAMA.

¡Españoles! Victimas de la misma persecucion que nosotros, habeis sido expulsados de vuestros hogares por el tirano de la España para constituiros en la horrorosa alternativa de ser sacrificados, ó de ser verdugos de vuestros inocentes hermanos. Pero el dia de la justicia ha llegado para vuestro pais: el pendon de la Libertad se ha tremolado en todos los àngulos de la Península. Hay ya Españoles libres. Si vosotros preferis la gloria de ser Soldados de vuestra Patria al crímen de ser los destructores de la América, yo os ofrezco, à nombre de la Repùblica, la garantía mas solemne. Venid à nosotros y sereis restituidos al seno de vuestras familias, como ya se ha verificado con algunos de vuestros compañeros de armas.

¡Americanos Realistas! Entrad en vosotros mismos, y os espantaréis de vuestro error.

¡Liberales! Idos à gozar de las bendiciones de la Paz y de la Libertad.

¡Sérviles! No seais mas tiempo ciegos, y aprended à ser hombres.

Cuartel-general Libertador en el Rosario de Cúcuta à 1.° de Julio de 1820.=BOLIVAR. =Por mandado de S. E.=*Pedro Briceño Mendez.*

El ùltimo Correo de Cundinamarca ha traido correspondencia de S.E. el Libertador Presidente, *fecha en San Cayetano à 10 de Agosto último. Este movimiento de S.E. al norueste de Cùcuta, cuando ha quedado allí y en las inmediaciones, el egército que estaba inmediatamente ó sus órdenes, indica que S.E. ha querido dirigir desde mas cerca las operaciones de las divisiones que obran en Santa-Marta y en Cartagena.*

Por este Correo hemos sabido que el Señor Coronel Lara permanecia en el Valle-de-Upar; y que el Señor Coronel Montilla estaba efectivamente sitiando à Cartagena, cuya guarnicion perseguida por nuestras tropas y execrada por los habitantes estaba reducida à los muros, y menesterosa de todo. Habia habido dentro de la plaza una revolucion hecha por las tropas en favor de la Constitucion española, y à consecuencia de la cual, habian salido, ó habian sido expelidos el Virrey Sámano, el Obispo, y el Brigadier Cano. Puede decirse que la aproximacion de nuestras tropas influyó mucho en la precipitada salida de aquellos campeones del poder arbitrario; mas nosotros que no queriamos explicar tan intempestiva y deshonrosa medida por solo un degradante temor, la atribuimos mas bien à la repugnancia de aquellos apóstoles de la tiranía á todo lo que sea Constitucion é imperio de las leyes. Mucha materia nos da este suceso para moralizar sobre el carácter de los Gefes que la España ha enviado siempre à gobernarnos, y sobre lo que pueden esperar de ellos los Americanos que por desgracia gimen todavía bajo la dominacion extrangera. En cuantos lugares de la América hemos sabido hasta ahora que se haya jurado la Constitucion española, en todos ha sido forzoso que la voz del pueblo, ó los impulsos de la guarnicion hayan compelido à los Gefes à someterse à la voluntad general: asi ha sucedido en Puerto-Rico, la Habana, Caràcas y Cartagena; y en la última, ya que el Virrey Sámano no muriese de pesar, como el General Arizaga, al ver quebrantadas las cadenas de la esclavitud, huyó despavorido de un lugar donde su voluntad no era ya indistintamente la ley, ò lo expelieron y expelieron con él à sus dignos Coadjutores el Obispo Rodriguez y General Cano, con cuyo apoyo se habia hecho tan odioso à sus propios conmilitones, à aquellos cuya benevolencia debiò conciliarse, especialmente ahora que tanto los necesitaba.

Mas dejemos en paz, si la pueden tener, à aquellos Gefes à quienes la opinion pùblica ha dado ya el mayor castigo, que ella impone, y procurémos conocer à su sucesor. Nuestra investigacion ha de reducirse siempre al bien que los Gefes españoles se hallen dispuestos à hacer al Americano; y prescindiendo por esta razon de lo que podriamos decir sobre la indigesta nota que el Gobernador Torres dirigió à S.E. el Libertador Presidente, *y que publicamos hoy, así como sobre el campanudo estilo de esta, llamamos la atencion de nuestros lectores à su Proclama de 5 de Julio, que tambien publicamos, y en la cual ordenaba salir fuera de los muros al mismo vecindario que debia proteger; y lo mandaba salir, sopena de obligarlo à ello militarmente. Mucho, mucho podriamos decir sobre esta proclama; mas todos saben que jamas se emplearon en nuestra tierra las armas del Rey de España en la proteccion de los habitantes, sino por el contrario en afligirlos y tiranisarlos. El habernos pintado àntes como monstruos y antropófagos, el haber declamado tanto contra nuestra moral y contra la conducta de nuestras tropas, bastaba y debió sin duda haber detenido al Gobernador Torres al dictar tal proclama: pero todo lo pospuso à su deseo de conservar los muros de Cartagena, y los medios de prolongar la coyunda. Ya todos lo conocen; y quizàs ya el habrá sido expelido à su turno.*

Y seanos permitido llamar tambien la atencion de nuestros lectores à la nota que el Señor Coronel Montilla dirigió à aquel Gobernador en contestacion à la que éste remitia à S.E. el Libertador Presidente. *Al leerla, al compararla con la contestacion que habrà recibido el General Morillo casi al mismo tiempo de todos los puntos à donde quiera que envió su insidiosa circular ¿se dudará todavía de la unánime irrevobilidad de nuestra decision? ¿se atribuirá todavía nuestra empresa à unos pocos, ó solo una faccion? Es necesario renunciar al buen sentido, para suponer lo todavía. En toda la extension de la Repùblica no se ha dado otra respuesta, no ha habido otra voz que* Independencia ó Guerra.

Fragmento de un oficio del Sr. Coronel Mariano Montilla á S.E. el Libertador Presidente.

"Excmo. Señor: Tengo el honor de remitir à V.E. copia de la correspondencia interceptada, que dirigía à Santa-Marta y Venezuela el Gobernador de Cartagena: V.E. verà por ella el estado de apuros en que está la Plaza, y las circunstancias favorables que se presentan para reocupar un punto tan importante. Desde el dia nueve entraron en Cartagena las ùltimas miserables reliquias españolas de Zapote y Tolù, de suerte que la columna del Coronel Córdoba nada tiene que hacer en el dia, sino la organizacion de fuerzas en aquellos departamentos, y el acopio en que ha convenido con el Señor Almirante y conmigo de tasajos y arroz para subministrar la Escuadra Nacional. Doscientos veinte y cinco fusiles que llevó de mis almacenes con otra porcion de efectos preciosos, y los que se tomaron en Tenerife le proporcionan los medios de levantar un batallon de 500 hombres, y la abundancia de caballos en las sabanas le aumentará poderosamente su caballería. Mis avanzadas llegan al pie de la Popa porque tengo colocada mi caballería en Ternera, y en toda la semana entrante quedarán cubiertas las avenidas de la Boquilla y Ziénega de Tesca, como tambien la de Albornos, Pasacaballos, Cospique y Mamonal, cuyos puntos serán defendidos por la columna de Patricios que disciplina el Sr. Coronel Ayala en Sabana-larga y San Estanislao, y que se movera el 16 con este obgeto. Aunque sin necesidad de tropas está bien cortada la comunicacion con la Plaza por la bella disposicion de los pueblos, y por las patrullas de caballería que hago salir de este cuartel-general á revistarlos. El enemigo tiene abandonada la Popa, y sus fuerzas sutiles son tan mezquinas, que no han podido aun poseer la Zienega de Tesca, siendo tan escasos los marineros, que mantienen desarmadas tres de la cinco lanchas, que existen en la bahia. El bergantin de guerra *Andalus* su ùnica esperanza se està yendo à pique. El Virrey Sámano, el Obispo Rodriguez y Brigadier Cano, han salido de la plaza para Jamáica, en consecuencia no solo de la aproximacion de las tropas de la Repùblica sino por la anarquia que reina en la plaza de resultas de la revolucion que hubo para jurar la Constitucion, de suerte que el primer Vocal de la junta de seguridad pública, que se ha establecido, es un sargento Cortés, artillero, y es el que dirige los negocios de Cartagena en el dia. Han arrojado de la ciudad todos los hombres que les son sospechosos, y se me han presentado aquí los ciudadanos Castillo, Pardo, Mutis, Santa-María, Gutierrez y otros. El Parque tomado en Tenerife ha sido de mucho valor, y el proporciona excelentes obuces de ocho pulgadas con buena dotacion de granadas, que unidas à los proyectiles que ha conducido la escuadra nos ministran medios de bonbardear la plaza."

Oficio del Gobernador de Cartagena à S.E. el Libertador Presidente.

Gefe Superior Politico y Militar: Bien sabe V.S. y lo reconocerà, como yo, en su corazon que las discordias entre familias tienden siempre por natural impulso, à una conciliacion fraternal mayormente cuando los agentes principales proceden de buena fé, y en el obgeto de la comun felicidad. La nacion española discorde tanto tiempo hace entre sus hijos de la Península y de Ultramar, ha llegado à conseguir el restablecimiento permanente de la Constitucion del año de 1812, que no puede dejar de ser un lazo de reunion, ó el medio de llegar à ella(1). A nada pueden aspirar los individuos de una sociedad, mas que à obtener un Gobierno liberal, justo y sàbio, cuyo fin parece que no puede dejarse de reconocer en aquel còdigo fundamental, de que acompaño à V.S. un egemplar(2), con los de la Proclama de S.M. el manifiesto de la Junta Provisional, y el reglamento para la comvocacion de Córtes. Este sistema que remueve todas, ó la mayor parte de las quejas de los disidentes ultramarinos(3), hace comparticipes à los habitantes de la América del supremo grado de gloria, à que en todo càlculo và à elevarse la Nacion, cuando por otra parte, si la Peninsula con la desunion và à perder no poco poder, la América despreocupada y especialmente este Reino, no puede dejar de reconocer la imposibilidad, en que se haya de subsistir por si solo(4), à causa de la falta de poblacion proporcional al terreno à que se extiende, y el atraso en ilustracion general(5), agricultura, industria, comercio, relaciones, y demas elementos necesarios, para formarse en Nacion, sin que pueda servirle de egemplar por estas diferencias y las de los colores y lina-

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(1.) Si ella cambia la indole de los opresores; ya que nuestros padecimientos han sido los mismos con ella.

(2.) El gefe superior politico y militar de Cartagena prueba à lo mas con esto que no lo ha leido.

(3.) ¡Qué estòlido!

(4.) ¿Porqué? Antes subsistia, y auxiliaba à la España.

(5) Y ¿qué maestros nos daba la España? al General Torres!!!

ges(1), el de las naciones en sus tiempos respectivos se han separado de los Estados à quien pertenecian. Si en los citados documentos, en estas indicaciones, ó por mejores càlculos, hallase V.S. mérito para la reconciliacion y reunion, y en su consecuencia se admitiese y jurase la Constitucion enviando à las Côrtes los Diputados correspondientes al distrito que ocupan las fuerzas que V.S. manda, este superior gobierno està autorizado para darlo todo, como lo darà por concluido, publicando un absoluto olvido de lo pasado, que en el actual sistema no puede dejarse de observar religiosamente: V.S. tendrà la gloria de ser uno de los primeros autores de la terminacion de las presentes calamidades de este pais digno de mejor suerte, y el gobierno agradecerà y recompensarà el mérito de esta resolucion tan benéfica. Mas si à V.S. ocurriesen aun algunos reparos que puedan allanarse con un convenio desicivo ó provisional, el superior gobierno nacional que ha recaido en mí, se presentarà à abrir conferencias por medio de Diputados para superarlos, ó si V.S. ó el Gobierno de que dependa se aviniere mejor à entenderse directamente con la Côrte, enviando sus Comisionados con amplios poderes, para exponer à S.M. lo que desea se les darà el salvo-conducto necesario en la inteligencia de que estoy autorizado para asegurar à V.S. que S.M. le oirà sus proposiciones, y les otorgarà cuanto sea compatible con la magestad, y bien absoluto de la monarquia. De todos modos y para en el caso de que no admitiéndose y jurándose desde luego la Constitucion ni enviándose Diputados à las Côrtes, haya que arreglar previamente otros puntos, convendrà una Tregua, ó cesacion de hostilidades que propongo para en dicho caso à V.S. para que se arregle por medio de Diputados, bajo las bases de sin perjuicio de las ventajas respectivas, y que nada se innove que pueda comprometer las operaciones subsesivas. Cuando à pesar de todo, se haya de continuar la guerra, este superior gobierno la harà, segun las órdenes que tiene conforme à los principios de humanidad y derecho de gentes, evitando todo encarnisamiento si V.S. adoptare por su parte el mismo medio. En fin el gobierno nacional supremo de cuya buena fé, la mas pura y cordial se darà siempre el mas seguro testimonio, me autoriza para asegurar que adoptarà los principios de rectitud, que son esenciales al sistema benéfico que se ha elegido; y si desgraciadamente no se consiguiesen con él los favorables efectos que la nacion y el Rey se propone sinceramente, se habrà dado à la Europa, y à todo el universo un irrevocable testimonio de la mayor moderacion, y que no quedando otro arbitrio que la fuerza para reducir à los obstinados se emplea con justicia y oportunamente, sin la responsabilidad que podria atribuirse al Gobierno si esto no se hiciese, de todas las desgracias que despues sobrevengan. Lo que comunico à V.S. por este oficio dirigido al primer Gefe de la linea al frente de esta plaza, esperando su contestacion por el término de cuatro dias prorrogables hasta cincuenta. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años.—Cartagena 20 de Julio de 1820.=*Gabriel de Torres.*=Señor General en Gefe de las fuerzas disidentes de este reino.

Gobierno Superior Político y Militar: Hallàndome con órdenes terminantes del supremo gobierno de la nacion, y autorizado por el rey para entrar en negociaciones con los Gefes de los Estados disidentes de este Reino, bajo las bases estables, que arroja de si la sàbia Constitucion que hemos jurado, capaces de transigir sus diferencias de familias, que por diez años consecutivos han desolado estos paises; me ha parecido conveniente bajo bandera parlamentaria, dirigirme como lo hago, por el pliego adjunto al General en Gefe de los Estados Americanos en la Nueva-Granada por considerarlo mas autorizado al efecto remitiéndole los documentos oficiales que garantizan hasta la evidencia las ideas y buena fé del gobierno nacional. En este concepto espero que V.S. se servirà dar à dicho pliego la conveniente direccion, sin perjuicio de que si V.S. se haya autorizado podamos entrar en un convenio amistoso é interino miéntras aquel Gefe se sirva dar contestacion à lo que en nombre, y por órden de S.M. le digo. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años.—Cartagena 20 de Julio de 1820.=*Gabriel de Torres.*=Señor Don Mariano Montilla, Coronel de los Egércitos Americanos y Comandante de las fuerzas que se hallan frente à la plaza.

(1.) Ellos conocen vuestra mezquindad y nuestra justicia.

MARIANO MONTILLA, del Orden de Libertadores, Coronel vivo y efectivo de los Egércitos de la Repùblica de Colombia, y comisionado especial del Excmo. Señor su Presidente, &c. &c. &c.

Al Señor Don Gabriel de Torres, gefe superior político y militar de la plaza de Cartagena:—Autorizado en mis instrucciones por el Excmo. Señor PRESIDENTE de Colombia para abrir sus correspondencias, é independiente de lo que S.E. disponga sobre el oficio que V. S. le dirige, y en que le propone entrar en negociaciones de paz, y conciliacion, manifestaré à V.S. en fuerza de las facultades conque me hallo, que ocupado todo el Reino de Santafé, y Provincia de Cartagena à excepcion de su capital por las armas de la Repùblica, que ademas de dominar exclusivamente el Magdalena se hallan victoriosas en todas partes, no entraré, ni oiré ninguna negociacion, miéntras V.S. no me entregue esa plaza en que se encuentra encerrado. La humanidad que ha dirigido siempre mis operaciones, procurarà extender sus limites sobre todas las victimas que le acompañan en el sitio, sin diferencia de origen ni averiguacion de conducta. La libertad de ir à vivir bajo el Gobierno que le acomode serà uno de los beneficios de que disfrutaràn; pero si V.S. con ménos sentimientos de humanidad renunciase à estas proposiciones me aprovecharé de las ventajas que me han dado las armas, y continuaré mis operaciones, guardando religiosamente el derecho de gentes sobre los vencidos, aun cuando jamas se haya observado por los enemigos à pesar de haberse prometido siempre. Sin embargo la conducta de V.S. y demas Gefes Españoles serà una ley inviolable que arreglarà la mia. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años.—Cuartel general de la Division Expedicionaria de Turbaco, Julio 21 de 1820—10°. de la Independencia.=*Mariano Montilla.*

PAPELES INTERCEPTADOS.

Proclama del Gobernador de Cartagena à los vecinos de la Plaza.

¡Cartageneses! Nada me ha sido mas sensible para mi corazon, que la necesidad de mandaros salir de vuestros hogares; pero no es posible evitarlo si se quiere evitar vuestra desgracia y destruccion. Tal vez en boca de algunos malvados esta medida serà mirada como una crueldad; pero si recordais que el Gobierno os ha traido siempre con el mayor amor, si abris los ojos sobre las circunstancias de esta plaza, conoceréis que vais à perecer si permanecéis en ella; que cuando el enemigo esté à la vista no os permitirà salir para que no se disminuya el número de bocas, y entonces vuestra muerte es infalible. Convenceos de la necesidad que teneis de ir à buscar vuestra subsistencia, y lejos de mirar como crueldad el mandato de emigrar lo mirareis como un benéficio. Afortunadamente el enemigo da algunas treguas, pero al fin podrá ser preciso evacuar la plaza, y tal vez evacuarla con precipitacion. Salid lo mas pronto posible Cartageneses, y libradme del pesar de tenerlo que hacer militarmente. Si los rebeldes se presentan frente de la plaza no tendréis ni un cuarto de hora de término para verificarlo, y no podre usar con vosotros de la menor contemplacion. Cartageneses: poneos à cubierto con tiempo de esta desgracia que os amenaza. Pasadas las presentes circunstancias, vosotros volveréis à vuestros hogares, y entonces me daréis las gracias por haberos libertado de todos los males. Cartagena 5 de Julio de 1820.=*Gabriel de Torres.*

Oficio del Comandante Romero al Gobernador de Santa Marta.

Excmo. Señor: Sin perjuicio de que el Teniente-Coronel graduado, Don Bernardo de Leon, habrà puesto en manos de V.E. el oficio que, con fecha 27 del próximo pasado, le dirigi desde el cuartel-general de Sabana-larga, pidiéndole algun refuerzo para poder batir el enemigo, que en número de alguna consideracion estaban reunidos en Malambo, y teniendo tambien no pocas fuerzas de paisanage armadas en los pueblos de Barranquilla, Soledad y Malambo, cuyo gefe habrá explicado à V.E. muy por menor las críticas circunstancias en que nos hallabamos, y la perentoria necesidad de algun refuerzo para cargar al enemigo con probabilidad del triunfo, respecto à que el pesimo estado de los pueblos todos escondidos en los montes; y tan opuestos à prestar el mas pequeño auxilio à las tropas españolas, como decidido à cooperar abiertamente, dándoles una proteccion admirable à las insurrectas y enemigas; no me podia lisongear harian nada en mi favor, ántes al contrario los miraba con el mayor recelo, considerándolos como enemigos: recibí à las once del 28, por el Capitan del cuerpo Don Rafael Cisneros, su muy atento oficio del 25, en que me avisaba debian unírseme 200 hombres, que estaban ya en Sitio-nuevo, y para cuyo embalce tenía ya à fuerza de diligencias y dinero, listas las barquetas necesarias por Santo-Tomàs y Ponedera, estando tan satisfecho como agradecido de las sábias disposiciones de V.E. que me comunicaba en su citado oficio, cuanto que desde luego me prometia con solo este auxilio la completa destruccion del enemigo, y los triunfos mas brillantes de mi columna; pero como al mismo tiempo me dió parte el citado Capitan de la desgracia extraordinaria ocurrida en Tenerife el 27 de que V.E. estará exactamente impuesto; habiendo ocupado los enemigos en su consecuencia el punto de Barrancas en número bastante considerable la misma noche del 27 no me quedaba otro arbitrio, obrando militarmente, que emprender mi retirada con las mayores precauciones; lo cual acordado en la Junta de guerra que formé de todos los oficiales de la columna, puse en egecucion la noche del 28, habiendo dado aviso por Candelaria al Capitan del Rey encargado de la tropa, que V.E. me mandaba por Chasquí extraordinario, no solo por aquella direccion, sino por la de Ponedera y Santo Tomás, con cuyos pueblos estaba en directa comunicacion, de que estaba obligado, é iba à emprender mi retirada, todo con el fin de evitar embalzasen, y se hallasen comprometidas, si dudaban mi movimiento. Igual aviso di al Teniente-coronel graduado Leon, por la via de Candelaria, esforzado el Chasquí à ver si lo podia alcanzar contestando al propio tiempo à V.E. à su citado apreciable oficio del 25. Apenas se hallan todos los pueblos abandonados, y sin el menor recurso de ninguna especie, puse en marcha aquella misma tarde el Parque de municiones, fusiles, pertrechos y hospital, emprendiendo yo la retirada con toda la columna à las ocho de la noche con el mayor órden, y en todo arreglo, habiendo forzado la primera marcha hasta San Estanislao, donde llegué à las nueve del 29 y el 30, à consecuencia de haber recibido el duplicado del gefe de esta provincia, que original inserto à V.E. para que conozca el crítico caso en que me hallo, no tuve otro remedio que continuar mi retirada con los mayores apuros y trabajos, porque desiertos completamente y sin el mas pequeño recurso de los Pueblos eran insuperables los obstáculos que se me presentaban para salvar el parque, municiones, hospitales, y mochilas de la tropa, y aun alimentar éstas; pero por fortuna, y casi prodigiosamente, he logrado entrar en esta plaza hoy dia de la fecha con toda mi fuerza íntegra, y sin haber perdido un cartucho, y despues de haber dejado cubiertos con la fuerza de caballeria é infantería que se me mandó como de observacion los puntos de Turbaco, Santa Rosa y Ternera, habiendo hecho conducir en mi rápida marcha sobre 200 reses, que han entrado en esta plaza, lisongeándome de que con dificultad podrá citarse una retirada de esta especie por lo oportuna, ordenada y sabiamente egecutada(1); pues V.E. sabe que por máximas constantes de todos los autores militares es de mas mérito muchas veces una retirada de esta clase que una victoria del acaso. Los enemigos, en el momento que desocupé à Sabana-larga, tuvieron repetidos avisos y chasquis de los muchos pícaros que infestan esta provincia, y à las cuatro de la madrugada ocupó el pueblo su caballería en número de 100 hombres, que es toda la que tienen, y à las cinco de la mañana la infantería en número de 500 hombres con cuatro violentos; pero pa-

(1.) ¡Hay igual descaro!

rece no han adelantado sino alguna pequeña partida hasta San Estanislao, y lo mismo ha sucedido por la parte de Barranca, sin duda porque respetan demasiado el valor, fidelidad y decision de los habitantes de esta provincia, que si se determina à atacarlos por Barranquilla, sin disputa los extermina, y debe autorizárseles para que hagan y cometan cuantos daños quieran à unos pueblos tan desleales y rebeldes indignos de toda consideracion(2). V.E. con su sábia meditacion, buen talento, grandes conocimientos militares, tomará todas las medidas necesarias para hostilizar à un enemigo, que aunque desembarcó con 400 hombres ha encontrado una proteccion tan ilimitada en los infames pueblos de esta desleal é infiel provincia, que es lo que lo ha podido conducir con facilidad y sin la ménor pérdida hasta las puertas de la plaza, reduciéndonos como lo estamos por ellos mismos à un estado de sitio. Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años.—Cartagena 7 de Julio de 1820.—Excmo. Señor.—El Comandante de la columna.=*Ignacio Romero.*

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Otro oficio del Gobernador de Cartagena al de Santa Marta.

Excmo. Señor: Me es sumamente sensible tener que dar à V.E. una noticia desagradable; pero el sentimiento de esta interesante plaza, me hacen clamar à V.E. por su socorro. En los primeros momentos creí contener los progresos del enemigo desembarcado en Sabanilla destacando doscientos hombres del regimiento de Leon, y la caballeria de que pude disponer segun avisé à V.E.; pero reuniéndose cada dia à aquel, los habitantes de los pueblos que se han portado con la mayor infidelidad, y no siendo posible reforzar à aquella pequeña columna de modo alguno, habiéndose por otra parte reunido á los enemigos de Sabanilla los del Magdalena, despues de haber destruido todas nuestras fuerzas, recelé que podria ser envuelto aquella por tener enemigos à su frente, flanco, derecho y espalda, y dispuse se replegase à esta plaza donde carece de todo ménos de los deseos de sacrificarse en obsequio del servicio del rey y de la nacion. En este apuro, sin casi guarnicion ni viveres, ni un real de que disponer, y sin dominar mas terreno que el contenido en las murallas de esta plaza, no me queda otro recurso que reclamar los refuerzos de V.E., persuadido se socorrerá este interesante punto llamando la atencion de los enemigos del modo que lo exige la urgencia de la circunstancia, en el concepto de que creo se estrellarán los esfuerzos del enemigo en esté baluarte del reino; por la falta de subsistencias podrian ser inútiles mis sacrificios, aunque con mayor urgencia la he solicitado; si V.E. no se decide à operar con las fuerzas de tierra ó agua, que se hallen à su disposicion.—Dios guarde à V.E. muchos años.—Cartagena 8 de Julio de 1820.—Excmo. Señor.=*Gabriel de Torres.*=Excmo. Señor Gobernador de Santa Marta, Mariscal de Campo D. Pedro Ruís de Porras.

Extracto de carta del Señor General Urdaneta, fecha en San Cristobal Agosto 10 de 1820.

"Ya he dicho à V. en mis anteriores cuanto ha ocurrido hasta la segunda venida del oficial Español Teniente Coronel Herrera. Se fué este despues de grandes obsequios hechos por S.E. en Cúcuta, y quedó pactado que el dia 6 del presente avisaria Latorre si continuaba ó nó el armisticio. Hasta hoy no lo ha hecho, ni los Comisionados del Gobierno Español han parecido; y aunque de hecho ha cesado el armisticio el dia 6 he querido sin embargo avisarlo à Latorre, como verá V. por la copia que incluyo, para que no vaya à publicarse que lo hemos quebrantado. La Division de Latorre ha sufrido mucho con el armisticio: su caballeria se me pasaba por partidas de diez y de 12 montados y armados, tanto que se vió obligado à mandar para átras la que le quedaba, y por un hombre recien llegado de Trugillo sé que este cuerpo iba en marcha mas allá de Mucuchies. El batallon de Barinas sufre una desercion horrible y toda esa gente está en la mayor miseria. El Señor Silva de Guaca se nos ha pasado con todo su canton."

(2) ¿Pues no elogia ahí mismo su fidelidad y decision? S. Sria. ha perdido el seso,

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Oficio del Señor General Urdaneta, Comandante de la Guardia de S.E. el Libertador Presidente *al General Latorre.*

Señor General: No habiendo recibido comunicacion de V.S. sobre la continuacion ó cesacion del Armisticio, estoy facultado para decir à V.S. que ningun acto hostil de mi parte de hoy en adelante deberá reputarse como infraccion del citado Armisticio, que debió terminar desde que faltó el aviso de V.S. el 6, y que ahora doy por concluido. Dios guarde à V.S. muchos años. Cuartel-general de la Guardia en Tariva, Agosto 10 de 1820.=*Rafael Urdaneta.*=Señor Mariscal de Campo Don Miguel de Latorre.

ARTICULO COMUNICADO.

Señor Redactor: Muchos han observado que en las proclamas de los gefes de Caracas à los emigrados de Costafirme todo se les promete, ménos la restitucion de sus propiedades, ni otro equivalente para subsistir. Sabemos que las propiedades han sido confiscadas y aplicadas à los realistas que mas se han distinguido en la matanza y persecucion de los patriotas. Pero ¿porqué no ofrecer en lugar de ellas alguna indemnizacion? Siendo falaces todas sus promesas, ¿porqué no incluir en ellas el reintegro de los bienes, ó alguna otra medida que releve de la miseria à los individuos que huyendo de ella se entregan en manos de sus enemigos? La razon de esto se hallará en el mismo fondo de la falacia: presto seria descubierta la que recayese sobre propiedades, ó indemnizacion total, ó parcial de las confiscadas: presto el clamor de los menesteros correria el velo de la mala fé, y esta quedaria ineficaz con sumo descrédito de sus autores. No lleva este riesgo lo que se emplea en la seguridad personal de los incautos y crédulos: su descubrimiento depende del suceso que tengan las negociaciones emprendidas con los insurgentes. Si estos fuesen tan mentecatos que se dejasen engañar con todas las artes que pone en práctica el enemigo para desarmarlos y subyugarlos de nuevo, entonces daria fin la enmascarada, aparecesian los lazos en toda su extension, y todos los engañados pagarian bien caro su necia credulidad.

No hay siquiera un egemplo de buena fé con los Americonos de parte del Gobierno Español: con perfidias hizo éste la conquista, siempre trató perfidamente con los descontentos, y nunca dejó de ser perfido con los que han reclamado sus derechos desde 1808. Ni puede esperarse otra cosa de un enemigo que tiene por máxima de su política *el ser lícitos todos los medios de vencer à los insurgentes, con tal que sean suficientes.* Entre la multitud de egemplares repetidos de mala fé, que yo he leido en la gaceta de Angostura, he notado la falta de uno muy famoso que acarreo la ruina de la independencia y libertad de Chile. El Virrey Abascal, y el General Gainza fueron los instrumentos de esta perfidia: ellos la egecutaron en el primer reinado de la Constitucion española, que vuelve ahora à servir de parapeto à nuestros enemigos para repetir en detrimento nuestro sus infracciones. Me abstengo de entrar en el por menor de la que sufrió el tratado de los Chilenos con Gainza y Abascal, porque no me propuse en este artículo sino discurrir algo acerca de las proclamas de Don Pablo Morillo y Don Ramon Correa à los emigrados de Costafirme.

La primera está inserta y anotada en el *Correo del Orinoco*, n.° 72, su defecto en la oferta de bienes à los emigrados es comun à una y otra. La segunda es mas notable en este defecto por la larga enumeracion que hace de los beneficios que aquellos encontrarán al volver à sus hogares: los copiarémos literalmente. "Todos los puertos, dice, están abiertos para vosotros. A cualquiera que lleguéis allí encontraréis absoluta seguridad en vuestras personas, sin que haya persona, ó autoridad que llegue à turbarla: allí encontraréis hermanos que sabran manifestaros que lo son; allí veréis que à la tremenda voz de *enemigos* han sucedido las dulcísimas de padres, hijos, hermanos y amigos: allí observaréis por la vez primera que en vuestra patria no se conocen ya los crueles resentimientos, ni el horrible rencor que son compañeros de las turbaciones civiles: allí en fin veréis que el rey ha habiado, y que estos pueblos obedecen *ciegamente* su voz...."

Si: todo encontrarán, ménos haciendas, ni otros bienes raices, ó muebles adjudicados à los asesinos de sus padres, hijos, hermanos, y amigos en premio de su asesinato. ¡Qué dulce memoria! ¡qué bello espectàculo! Allí veréis las propiedades que en otro tiempo hacian la riqueza y comodidad de vuestras familias sirviendo al lujo y ostentacion de individuos todavía manchados con la sangre de vuestros deudos mas cercanos. ¡Ved aqui, emigrados el sentido de la proclama en la taciturnidad de vuestros bienes! ¡Ved la ciega obediencia que se os anuncia, cuando ella es detestada por los principios liberales de la Península!

Lo mas curioso de la proclama de Correa és que ella se presenta como garante de la de Morillo, para que los emigrados no desconfien de sus promesas. Restanos ahora saber quien sale por fiador de Correa, que ha sido uno de los complices en la desolacion de nuestro pais y en los atentados consecuentes à la violacion de los tratados. El circulo de tales garantias seria infinito, si Colombia desengañada con la experiencia de 10 años no afianzase sus derechos en la emancipacion y en las armas. Ved aqui, emigrados de Costafirme, el medio único de recuperar vuestras propiedades usurpadas. Unios con nosotros, venid à las banderas de la República, triunfante en todas partes, y la recuperacion de vuestros bienes será mas pronta y efectiva.

"Si vosotros conocierais à Su Excelencia (os dice el Señor Correa) entonces el gefe político de *Venezuela* estaria cierto de que habia desaparecido de vosotros cualquiera sombra que la malignidad, ó una política errada haya procurado formar. Si vosotros conocierais la sublime honradez de su carácter: su intenso amor à la nacion y al rey: el dolor que le causan los males de vuestra patria: sus inexplicables deseos de terminarlos: su ánsia por reuniros, abrazaros, gozar de la dulzura de vuestra reunion, y partir para la suya cumplidos sus deseos; entonces yo me creeria sin necesidad de hablaros."

E frutibus eorum cognoscetis eos.
Operibus credite.

Hé aqui la muestra por donde siempre han sido conocidos los hombres: éste es el índice recomendado en las Escrituras. Por sus frutos se conoce el árbol, y por su obras el hombre. Cualquiera otro conocimiento que se desvie de esta regla no será del resorte de la moral y política; estará bien para los pintores, ó escultores, y para los viles aduladores. Tan conocido es Morillo en Colombia como Neron en Roma, el Duque de Alba en los Paises-Bajos, Fernando 7.° en la Península, la calentura amarilla y los Guias en Càdiz, y el terremoto de 1812 en Caràcas.

Contra esta plenitud de conocimientos en vano se empeña el nuevo panegirista en darlo à conocer à los emigrados con tan falsos colores: superflua es la pintura que de él hace para incitarlos à su conocimiento. No se canse V. Señor Correa, en recomendar à su Mecenas: ninguno mejor que él ha labrado su recomendacion en Colombia: nadie mejor que él ha podído hacer el retrato para ser conocido de todos los emigrados y de todos los Colombianos. *La sublime honradez de su carácter* se halla delineada por el mismo Morillo en su nota oficial dirigida desde Mompox al Ministerio de la guerra en Madrid con fecha de 7 de Marzo de 1816. Copiaré el pàrrafito mas expresivo de su honradez. "Pedi á S.M misioneros y ahora añado que convendria tambien remitir Curas y letrados Européos, pues si

esto se ha de llevar adelante, *debe ser en los propios términos que se hizo la conquista en su primera época.*"

Cuando asi explicaba la sublime honradez de su carácter, ya él habia empezado á obrar como los primeros conquistadores de las Indias: siguio sus huellas, y se habria aventajado à ellos, si hubiese dado con Indios indefensos, y desarmados. Otras han sido las resultas, y ellas le arrancan ese lenguage forzado con que pretende dejarnos inermes para continuar la marcha de sus modelos. Parece que el Señor Correa cree todavia que los emigrados de la Costafirme son de aquellos Indios de la época de Losada, Ampues, Fajardo, y los Belzares. Mejor le estaria recoger su proclama, y no insultar mas à los Colombianos: mejor le estaria aconsejar à su recomendado que pues ama intensamente à su nacion y à su rey, vaya à dar allá los abrazos con que desea recibir à los emigrados de Costafirme.—UN COLOMBIANO.

LAS COSAS COMO SON.

[*Entre varios papeles españoles que han llegado à nuestro poder hemos recibido copia de un manifiesto publicado por el Lic. D. Juan de Dios Cañedo, Diputado suplente por Nueva-España contra el nombramiento de tales suplentes, y en general contra la conducta que se observaba con las diversas partes de América que se hallan ó nó en insurreccion. Publicamos la segunda parte de este manifiesto, en que habla mas directamente con respecto à nosotros: su lectura no puede ser indiferente à nuestros lectores.*]

" SECCION SEGUNDA.—El estado actual de las provincias disidentes de la América Meridional parece debe fijar la atencion de los políticos españoles, para que formen con sus sabios escritos el sistema que deba seguir el gabinete de Madrid en la direccion de materia tan importante. Desde el año de 1808, en que casi toda la España se hallaba dominada por una fuerza extrangera, la parte del pueblo que se decidió à combatir contra el poder colosal del usurpador, adoptó diferentes medios en el plan de su defensa, conforme las opiniones de las diversas juntas que se erigieron en las provincias. Aunque todos ellas aspiraban à la libertad, no por eso dejaron de tener sus diferencias en cuanto à la autoridad suprema que debia ser reconocida en aquellos tiempos de anarquía y confusion. Asi es que, contemplándose cada una de las autoridades locales respectivas con derecho à influir en la opinion general, expedian decretos con el tono de legisladores, queriendo ser obedecidas no solo por las otras corporaciones sus rivales, sino tambien por las autoridades de àmbas Américas. Complicadas de esta manera las màximas del gobierno acefalado de la Peninsula, resultó por consecuencia necesaria, la misma division de opiniones de las provincias de ultramar. Creyéndose entonces los Americanos, à imitacion de los españoles, con derecho à erigir juntas que conservasen su propio territorio, fueron desobecidas en muchas provincias de la América Meridional las órdenes contradictorias de las juntas de Asturias y Sevilla, que pretendian mandar exclusiva é imperiosamente en Nueva-España y en el Perù. Viéndose los Americanos en la mas favorable coyuntura para reasumir los derechos imprescriptibles de su libertad, confiaron el mando del gobierno, que juzgaron entonces oportuno, à los sugetos que creyeron mas dignos por su valor, ó por su sabiduria. Desde aquella época datan los célebres establecimientos de las repùblicas nacientes de la América del Sur. Buenos-Aires, Venezuela, Chile, y Santafé, lanzaron casi al mismo tiempo el grito de la libertad. Por una simpatia de causa y de intereses, pasaron al Perù y à Mégico las mismas ideas, y con corta diferencia los mismos planes para egecutarlas. Encendida de esta manera la guerra de las juntas de España contra los gobiernos de América, se armaron partidos diferentes, con que se señalaron los principios de las funestas guerras civiles, que han cubierto de luto y sangre aquellos hermosos paises de ultramar.

" Los Americanos pretendieron de buena fé transigir con el gobierno del Monarca à la vuelta de su cautiverio los asuntos particulares que influian mas notablemente en su felicidad. A estas medidas saludables se opusieron los ministros déspotas, que abolieron el Congreso que salvó la patria del yugo extrangero. Se formaron en esta nueva época expediciones sangrientas para destruir à los patriotas de Buenos-Aires y de Caracas. Aquel gobierno de sangre y de horror despreciò las representaciones mas sumisas; puso en movimiento con inmensos gastos, flotas expedicionarias mandadas por los gefes mas decididos del despotismo, para ir à sellar la esclavitud de la América, despues de haber arruinado la libertad de la península. La indignacion general à vista de las nuevas crueldades egercidas por estos Verres despertò el heroismo, y el noble deseo de los Americanos de sepultarse en las ruinas de su patria, àntes que consentir en tales ultrages, que hacen la vergüenza y el oprobio del género humano. Los progresos del valor y de la justicia correspondieron à tan nobles fines, y las provincias disidentes que por su situacion geogràfica pudieron comunicarse con los extrangeros, lograron de ellos toda clase de recursos y campeones ilustres que, decidiéndose generosos por la causa de la humanidad, combatieron bajo los estandartes Americanos contra la tiranía opresora de la madre patria. Mas las provincias del interior de Mejico y del Perù, no hallando los mismos auxilios, pelearon valientemente, pero con una suerte muy diversa à causa de la ignorancia militar en sus egércitos, y de la incomunicacion con la Europa. Fàcil es conocer, porque al cabo de diez años de estas guerras desoladoras solo las cuatro Repùblicas citadas han conseguido de hecho su independencia, sucediendo lo contrario con las miserables provincias, que combatiendo aisladas, y destrozàndose con rivalidades domésticas, se han sacrificado inutilmente, sin contar hasta ahora mas que con la probabilidad de reparar lo perdido.

"Tal es el estado en general de las dos Américas. Las potencias de Europa, conociendo la imposibilidad de que la peninsula por la falta de recursos recobre el mando de la América del Sur, accederàn probablemente al reconocimiento legìtimo de su absoluta independencia. El resultado de los esfuerzos patrióticos de los Mégicanos debe calcularse de otra manera.

" Es verdad que el instinto de felicidad y de emulacion podria inspirar à los habitantes de Nueva-España, siguiendo el egemplo de sus hermanos del Sur, à hacer continuos sacrificios para elevarse al rango de los dignos sùbditos de Bolivar, de Pueyrredon y de San Martin; pero el feliz suceso de la caida del despotismo en la peninsula puede hacer variar de ideas à aquel continente, y esperar en la buena fé que caracteriza los gobiernos representativos, el remedio de los males de la anarquía, terminàndolos con una feliz transaccion que asegure los derechos de la libertad americana.

"Las actuales circunstancias presentan el mas feliz aspecto para esta politica negociacion. Los Mégicanos creerian adquirir ventajas efectivas con la incorporacion en el gobierno de la metròpoli, si pudiesen concebir la idea de una igualdad absoluta con los naturales del hemisfério Español. Es empresa dificil el inspirarles esta confianza, pero no imposible. Lo primero que pediràn por garantía de la igualdad constitucional serà, el entero cumplimiento de la carta, sin las restricciones ò infracciones que en ella puedan hacer los Virreyes y Gobernadores de las provincias, só pretexto de circunstancias extraordinarias. Y ¿será esto de esperarse, si se imita ahora lo que se practicó en el año de 1813 en toda Nueva-España despues de la publicacion del Codigo constitucional? Bien sabido es que la libertad de imprenta, y la division del mando politico y militar, tan esenciales para el cumplimiento de nuestro sistema, no llegaron à egecutarse en aquellos paises. El gobierno militar insultando las bases sagradas de la carta, que se publicó con pompa en todas las capitales, para ser quebrantada por los mismos que debian titularse sus protectores, diò lugar à la desesperacion de los disidentes, los que se habrian reunido al gobierno legitimo si no se hubiesen ultrajado las leyes con esta despòtica contravencion. Nos hallamos hoy dia en igual caso. ¿Se autorizarà à los Gefes de ultramar à continuar fomentando la disension, y las guerras domésticas, dejando en sus manos el arbitrio para el cumplimiento de la constitucion? ¿Se les enviaràn òrdenes reservadas para que obren à su voluntad, segun el sistema de los ministros que al auxilio de la distancia puedan ocultar sus procedimientos criminales contra la igualdad proclamada? Si todo esto continùa, claro es que ha pasado el tiempo de las transacciones con la América. Serà necesario emplear la fuerza para la reunion de ambos hemisférios; y si se juzga imposible por el gobierno de la peninsula la igualdad absoluta de Españoles y Americanos, los Americanos decidiràn tambien como imposible la conformidad de ideas, y de sistema politico en los dos Mundos. Separados estos por la naturaleza, lo estaràn tambien por sus leyes, y por sus gobiernos. En una palabra, serà entonces llegado el dia de sancionar la independencia.

" No es esta una vana teoria, sino una verdad deducida de los principios políticos de las sociedades modernas que solo se unen entre sí por la reciprocidad de intereses. Si este resorte falta, es una quimera quererlo suplir con la fuerza armada porque si bien esta puede triunfar momentaneamente, es indudable que à la larga serà vencida por la opinion que es la sola reina que establece y consolida los gobiernos. Si se cierran los ojos à este axioma evidente en politica, meditense enhorabuena nuevas flotas que vayan del otro lado del mar à pelear en vano contra las leyes que acaban de publicarse en la peninsula; pero àntes de este paso odioso contemplad, Españoles, si bajo de tan tristes auspicios lograreis triunfar sobre una nacion, que con el apoyo de las potencias extrangeras del continente Europeo, y sobre todo con el auxilio de los Estados-Unidos de América, os darà la ùltima prueba, ademas de los desengaños que ya tenéis, de que: *l'injustice à la fin, produit l'indépendance.*

" Supongàmonos en el caso de la absoluta emancipacion de las Américas, y juzguese el resultado funesto que esta acarreará al comercio, industria y crédito pùblico del Estado. Obstruidos enteramente los canales de su prosperidad con la independencia de Mégico, no tendrà bastantes recursos la peninsula para concurrir por si sola con el comercio é industria de los extrangeros del continente: de manera que teniendo entonces mas necesidades que medios de satisfacerlas, el rango que gozaba por su antigua opulencia, siendo casi nulo, se verà reducida en este extremo à ocupar un lugar nada ventajoso en la lista de las dinastias reinantes. No cabe pues duda ninguna, que debe la España procurar por todos los medios posibles hacer efectivo en la América el sistema constitucional en todos sus puntos para uniformar su gobierno, y contar en cambio de sus frutos con la riqueza de aquellos paises, abriendo de esta manera el camino de su régeneracion en los ramos industrial, comercial y politico. Si à pesar de cuanto llevamos expuesto de buena fé, y con solo el obgeto de manifestar à la nacion española nuestros patrióticos sentimientos, un gobierno sombrío é inexorable, trata de extraviar la opinion pùblica, y de excitar la indignacion de los Españoles para hacer obedecer en la América su sistema de excepciones, los Américanos no por eso cesaràn de repetir à la Corte de Madrid estas palabras que serán el éco uniforme de los que sostendran à todo trance el honor de su patria. *Igualdad absoluta con los peninsulares, ó separacion eterna de la España.* Si se desatiende por orgullo este voto universal de los habitantes de ultramar, y en cuyo cumplimiento solamente puede librarse la garantía de su felicidad; que se multipliquen déspotas; que vayan tiranos armados à renovar las carnicerías de nuestras guerras desoladoras; que preparen cadalsos: que inspiren el terror, si pueden, desde el Cabo de Hornos hasta Tejas: todo serà inùtil, todo perdido, pues que à la divisa del *Oderint dum metuant* de Tiberio, que se ponga en los estandartes del despotismo, escribiràn los Americanos en los suyos aquel célebre mote Vitelio, *omnis in ferro salus.* Sí: la salud de la América, apoyada en la justicia de su santa causa, no reconocerà otras armas que el hierro y el valor; é imitando à los héroes de la isla que han consagrado su patriotismo con la defensa de nuestra constitucion, creeràn tambien los Americanos lograr el triunfo de su causa viendo coronados los esfuerzos de la constancia y energia con el fruto precioso de la libertad.

" Este lenguage con que explicamos à la nacion nuestros deseos sinceros de servirla, no debe calificarse de incendiario sino por los que equivocan de mala fé la sumision con la esclavitud, y la franqueza con el insulto. Los Españoles sensatos observaràn que nuestros temores son fundados, y que por lo mismo los denunciamos al pùblico. El fin que nos proponemos con esta declaracion, es hacer inculcar la conducta del Ministro de ultramar para que jamas pierda de vista la delicadeza con que debe dirigir los asuntos de nuestros paises, dàndonos testimonio con sus procedimientos imparciales de los deseos que deben animarle para el verdadero servicio del Rey y de la patria."

Angostura: impreso por ANDRES RODERICK, *Impresor del Gobierno, calle de la Muralla.*

S. D. Forsyth — Rec. 21 April. 19

Apure = San Juan de Payara
January 7th 1821.

Sir,

I arrived here four days since from Angostura, on my way to the Head Quarters of Gen.l Bolivar.

When I left Angostura on the 12th ultimo, the news of an Armistice had not reached that place, nor had I an opportunity of procuring a copy until my arrival here, which I now inclose you in the original language least in giving it a translation I might change any one expression in the numerous Articles it contains.

I am not prepared to make any observations on the effects this Suspension of the war in these Provinces, may ultimately produce, but this far, I have not heard one single person express themselves pleased with the temporary peace which this Armistice has given them, as the whole of the Military appear inclined to think that if the Armistice had not taken place, they would certainly have taken the Caracas this Campaign.

I have endeavoured to find out the object of Gen.l Bolivar, in concluding this Armistice so unexpected by every one in this Country, and I am disposed to think that the Gen.l was forced into the Armistice

Hon.ble
John Quincy Adams Esq.r
Secty. of State
&c &c &c

Armistice from a want of a Cooperation on the
part of Gen. Páez, and the other Chiefs of the
Republic. While Gen. Bolivar marched from the
Seat of his Village of San Christoval early in Nov.
he dispatched $12.000 in Doubloons to Gen.
Páez to purchase from individuals Cattle for
the use of the Army under his Command, as well
as those which he expected to acquire in
the Course of his march towards Caracas
But Gen. Páez instead of employing the money
Sent to him in the manner the President had
directed, put the money in his own pocket, and
employed his Cavalry in catching Cattle in the
Plains leaving the Army of Bolivar without the
most ordinary Rations of Beef, and failing
to unite his Division with Gen. Bolivar, pre-
ferred the Cattle in a Situation either to retreat
before Gen. Morrillo, give Battle, or enter into
an Armistice. The Armistice was therefore
adopted by Bolivar in preference to giving
Morrillo an opportunity to gain a victory
over him. This appears to have been the
real Cause of the present peace, which may
in the end cost this Republic very dear, if it
may lead to the acknowledgement of their Inde-
pendence.

Gen. Morrillo embarked about the
10th. in the Port of Puerto Cabello, for Maracaibo
Gen.l La Torre in Command of the whole
of the Troops in Venezuela & New Granada
It is not known what the object of Gen.

Morrillo

Morrillo may be in going to Spain, but Genl. Bolivar, I understand entertains an opinion that Morrillo will become an advocate of the Independence of Columbia with the Cortes in Madrid, and if not the American acknowledges this Republic as a Sovereign State, and may induce the Government of the U States, or some other Government, to treat with him as such if not to acknowledge the Independance of Columbia.

I have met here some intelligent Gentlemen from Caracas, who think the Spanish nation will acknowledge the Republic of Columbia free & Independant, if the Republic will give a guarantee that the Islands of Porto Rico, Cuba, with Mexico, & Peru, remain under the Spanish Flag under certain regulations. I am not able to say what the conduct of Genl. Bolivar will be should Spain make any such proposition, but I can say with confidence that such proposals would be rejected with indignity by the members of the present Congress of Columbia, who are determined not to concede any thing to obtain that does not comport with the dignity of a free people.

The day after the Armistice was published in Sta Marta, Genl. Bolivar set out for the Head Quarters of Genl. Paez in the Island of Margarita, but when on the road, the Genl. rec'd. dispatches from the Vice President of Santa Fé announcing to him, that the town of Guayaquil with those in the vicinity had declared Independant, with the greater part of the villages

the Provinces of Texas. The moment the Gen.l
this important information, he changed his
destination to Santa Fee, and I do not e
expect to meet him before I reach Santa
a very probable while I am at the City of
Santa Fee.

I am ignorant what instructions the
Government will give to their Ministers, and
Agents abroad, but am inclined to think that
Mr Jones, will be instructed to urge that
the United States acknowledge the Independence
Columbia this Session of Congress, and I think
from what I can learn here, that a minister
extraordinary will be sent by the United States in
all the month of July ensuing, or I expect
to find a very fine Vessel I have in Ne
& N. York in the first week of July.

I shall leave this to day for the interior
and should I have any thing worth your at
tion, I will do myself the pleasure to write
by way of Orleans but if all that keeps

This letter has been written in haste, y
will therefore excuse errors &c

I have the honor to be
your Ob.t Servant

J. D. Forsyth

COLOMBIA.

GAZETA DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTA,

CAPITAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE CUNDINAMARCA.

Domingo 17 de Diciembre de 1820.—10.°

SANTA-MARTA LIBRE.

Exmo. Sor. Conseqüente á lo que dixe á V. E. desde Soledad el 14 tengo el honor de añadir: que despues que el Sor. Coronel Carreño batió con su Division en las alturas del *Codo* las Tropas del General Sanches Lima, emprendió su marcha sobre los Pueblos de la *Cienega* para concluir la Campaña de esta Provincia que parecia la mas facil, habiendo destruido los Europeos y tropas de linea que la guarnecian. Mas á penas llegó á *Rio-frio*, cuyo raudal y profundidad oponia verdaderos obstáculos á su vado, se descubrieron tropas enemigas, que en número de 200 rompieron sus fuegos sobre nuestros Cazadores, quienes tuvieron que vadearlo á larga distancia para flanquearlo: V. E. verá los pormenores de este encuentro en el parte del mismo Coronel CARREÑO que acompaño bajo el número 1.° y que por un retardo involuntario no llegó á mis manos á debido tiempo, por cuya causa dexé de comunicarlo á V. E. antes de ahora - Vencido este obstáculo, y decidido el ataque general de las fortificaciones de la Cienega para el dia 10 á las nueve de la mañana continuandolo por tres diferentes puntos que debian sér executados por la Marina, fuerzas sutiles y Exército, se verificó denodadamente por la Division del Coronel Carreño, que antes de diez minutos habia tomado las baterias que defendian al *Pueblo viejo*, y dejado á reta-guardia los cañones que las defendian, pero los Indios obstinados en la defenza, protegidos por ventajosas posiciones y engreidos con sus antiguos triunfos, emprendieron de nuevo dentro de la poblacion y sus cercanias un fuego bien nutrido y certero, que nos causó bastante daño, y que forzó á las valientes tropas Repúblicanas á cargar tan de firme y tan ciegos de coleta, que no fué posible evitar la mortandad sinó despues de mucho tiempo en que comenzó á lograrse diesen Quartel á los enemigos Aseguro á V. E. que hé visto el campo, y está esterado de cadáveres, pues no bajan de 400 los enemigos que mordieron alli el polvo. La caballeria en este tiempo dió siempre repetidas cargas, teniendo en todas ellas que lancear hombres valientes, y tan decididos á pelear que jamás volvieron la espalda.

Mientras tanto el Señor Coronel Padilla, cuyo deber era tomar las Baterias de la Barra y Pueblo viejo con las fuerzas sutiles de su mando y tropas de la Division del Coronel Carreño, obró con tal actividad y denuedo que en muy pocos minutos tenia en su poder todos los buques de guerra enemigos que coadyubaban á la defensa y las fortificaciones que hacian respetable aquel punto, y marchando por tierra con la Infanteria y una parte de sus Marineros se incorporó á las tropas que ya poseian tranquilas la poblacion de las Sabanas. - Por el oficio del Sor. Coronel Carreño habrá venido V. E. en conocimiento de los movimientos de la Esquadra al mando del Sor. Almirante. - Destruido el enemigo, ordenó dicho Coronel al Comandante *Masa* con una Columna adelantase sus marchas hasta la Ciudad persiguiendo la enemigo y tomando posicion de las baterias del Dulcino, ultimo recurso que podia quedar al enemigo: asi lo verificó este Xefe, y mientras se embarcaron nuestros heridos, se recorrió el campo, se recogieron los despojos y se dispuso la Division para seguir los movimientos de la columna de vanguardia. - A las doce de la noche se presentó el Coronel Narvaéz y dos Miembros del Ayuntamiento de la Capital, pidiendo suspencion de armas, como verá V. E. por el documento número 2.°. La copia número 3 fué la contestacion dada por el Coronel Carreño, con la buena fé que caracteriza á los Xefes de la República ordenó al Comandante Masa suspendiese sus movimientos. Entre tanto el pérfido Gobernador de Santa-Marta dexando la Ciudad en la mas completa anarquía, abandonando sus mismos compañeros y personas mas adictas al sistema del Rey, fugó de la Plaza en una Goleta que visitada el mismo dia por nuestra Esquadra, burló su vigilancia entrando en el Puerto, y logró escaparse sin ser vista. El Sor. Almirante que se presentó frente á la Bahia la mañana del 11 recibió una invitacion de la Plaza para tomar posecion de ella, pues ignorante el Coronel Carreño del indecoroso proceder de Porras, habia guardado sus posiciones hasta recibir las ulteriores contestaciones. Estos son Exmo Sor. los acontecimientos de la Campaña abierta sobre esta Provincia el 15 del pasado en que se movió la Division de Soledad: y por el estado que acompaño á V. E. núm.° 4.° se impondrá de las pérdidas que ha sufrido en las tres diferentes acciones que ha tenido: por el núm.° 5.° vendrá V. E. en conocimiento de la del enemigo, y por la del núm.° 6.° de la Artilleria, proyectiles, armamentos y municiones que con la posecion de esta Plaza aumentan en el dia los medios de arrojar del emisferio de Colombia á los tiranos que aun intentan infestarlo.

No llenaria los deberes de mi empleo si dexase en silencio el mérito contrahido por el Sor. Coronel Carreño Comandante de la Division que ha operado. Si hubiesen los Gobiernos de juzgar por los resultados, ninguno calificaria mejor que el presente el talento conspicuo de este Xefe. Yo me glorio en decir á V. E. que el Coronel Carreño, por su prudencia previsiva antes del combate, por su constancia y serenidad en él, y por su politica, humanidad y desinterés despues de la victoria, merecè la estimacion general. Permitame V. E. recomendar á este Martir de la Libertad, á la generosidad y justicia del Gobierno que no dudo recompensará dignamente sus servicios, y muy particularmente los que ha contrahido en esta campaña. - El mismo Sor. Coronel me recomienda en sus partes como muy dignos de atencion al Teniente Coronel Sandez Comandante de Rifles, al Sargento Mayor de iden Peacoke, y los Capitanes Phileam y Romero del mismo cuerpo heridos, al Teniente Coronel graduado Manuel Leon del mismo, al Teniente Coronel Calderon Comandante de los Húsares de la guardia, al Capitan Acedo, Alferes Matute, Sargentos Guzman, Amaro, Cabo Poro, y Soldado Sanoja del mismo cuerpo; á los Sargentos de Banderas de Rifles, Cuello y Naranjo, y al Teniente Coronel F. Koeconor que desempeña las funciones de Xefe de E. M. Interino de la Division: yo me atrevo á esperar que V. E. distinguirá á estos brabos, y que tambien lo verificará con el Subteniente Ayardaburu Ayudante del Coronel Carreño y adjunto al E. M. - Aunque no creo de mi deber recomendar á V. E. al Sor. Coronel Padilla y las fuerzas sutiles de su mando por depender inmediatamente del Exmo. Sor. Almirante, me atrevo á hacerlo por justicia y por reconocimiento á su conducta bizarra y honorable=Dios guarde á V. E. muchos años. Santa-Marta Noviembre 19 de 1820=Exmo. Sor.=El Comandante en Xefe *MARIANO MONTILLA*=Exmo. Sor. Vice-Presidente del Departamento de Cundinamarca.

DOCUMENTOS CITADOS.

Quartel principal en la bateria del Carmen en la Cienega á 11 de Noviembre de 1820.=Al Sr. Coronel Comandante en Xefe &c.=El 9 al medio dia llegó la Division á *Sevillano*: luego que cubrí el Campo marché con 25 Husares acia la Cienega, con el objeto de hacer una descubier-

sobre las trincheras, lo que no pude verificar tan exáctamente como queria, teniendo un choque con el enemigo y que poner en movimiento al Sr. Coronel Padilla. El 10 al amanecer hice las señales convenidas para prevenir á este Xefe, y se me contestó. A las 2 de la madrugada puse en marcha la Division con el mayor silencio y union, trayendo el Parque en el centro de ella, y á las 8 de la mañana estaba yá frente al Pueblo en donde hice alto para esperar la hora en que debiamos atacar en convinacion, y entretanto fuí con el Comandante Calderon á reconocer el Pueblo, disponiendo el ataque del modo siguiente. Destiné la Compañia de Granaderos con una mitad de la 6.ª de Rifles con el Capitan Loedel y el Teniente Durán á atacar por la derecha enemiga: el resto del Batallon *Girardot*, y la otra mitad de la 6ª con los Capitanes Ormaechéa y Ramirez por el centro, apoyadas ambas columnas de 25 hombres de Caballeria, y yó con las demás tropas por la izquierda, habiendo dado órdenes á las partidas de que no rompiesen el fuego ántes que yó, para evitar que el enemigo cargase sobre ellas, siendo las mas débiles. Rompió el fuego el Sr. Coronel Padilla á la hora señalada, é inmediatamente cargué sobre el enemigo á paso de trote habiendome introducido en el Pueblo en menos de 10 minutos, tomando en este tiempo dos baterias. El enemigo, la mayor parte indios tan valientes como la mejor tropa, se metió en las casas del lugar, sosteniendose con grande obstinacion, y hube de emplear mas de hora y media de fuego para desalojarlos de todas partes: mientras estos se defendian en el interior extraordinariamente, una partida de 150 hombres me salió por un flanco con intencion de atacarmè por él, y cargar sobre el Parque. Reuní mi fuersa en la plaza, y destiné nuevas guerrillas contra los que estaban dentro de las casas, mientras yó con la Caballeria corrí al Parque, y completé la derrota.—Mas de 400 hombres del enemigo han muerto: entre los heridos de mi Division se encuentran el Mayor *Peacoke* y el Capitan *Pealem*, cuyas heridas son leves. Interesso á V. S. el cuidado de los heridos de Rifles, que son muy valientes y dignos de una buena atencion.=Quando entré al Pueblo crei que solo habian defendido este punto 800 hombres; pero segun las declaraciones tomadas, era la fuersa enemiga contando el Pueblo que estaba armado, muy cerca de dos mil hombres.

Se me está presentando alguna gente, y espero que en tres dias se presente el vecindario todo. El Mayor *Powel* sigue para esa con pasaporte, por cobarde: el Teniente Lozano, es tambien inutil.=Tambien el Alferez Ponciano Sanchez.=Dios guarde á V. S.—*José Maria Carreño.*

Perdidas en la Division de la República, en los tres combates de Codo, Rizfrio y Cienega.

Muertos, 40. = Heridos, 114. = Contusos, 3. = Oficiales heridos, 3.

Perdidas del Enemigo en los mismos tres combates.

Muertos, 592. = Heridos, 253. = Prisioneros, 625. = Oficiales muertos, 29. = Yd heridos, 4. = Prisioneros, 8.

Efectos tomados, 182 piezas de Artilleria, desde el calibre de á 24. hasta el de á 2. = 812. fuciles. = Dotaciones de la Artilleria en gran cantidad, y un buen Parque de municiones de fusil.

Buques de guerra, 5. = Botes de cubierta, 3.= Bongos del Comercio, 86. = Es copia.- *Montilla.*

Oficio del Cabildo de Santa-Marta.

Mediante haber logrado V. S. posesionarse de este punto de la Cienega por victoria de sus armas, no quiere este Ayuntamiento se continùe un derramamiento de sangre *entre una misma familia*, [*] y á cuyo efecto ha acordado, con presencia de la Junta de Guerra, se propongan á V.S. capitulaciones conformes á los sentimientos manifestados en sus Proclamas por el Exmo. Sr. General en Xefe D. Simon Bolivar, y diputado por una y otra Autoridad, al Teniente Coronel D. Ysidro Escalada, al Sr. Alcalde segundo nombrado D. Ramon Martinez Guerra, y Regidor D. Juan Texidò, para que se propongan los articulos sobre los que debe formalizarse, esperando entretanto se suspenda toda hostilidad y uso de armas. = Dios gue. á V. S. ms. años. Sala de Ayuntamiento Constitucional 10 de Noviembre de 1820. = Pedro Ruiz de Porras. = Vicente Morè. = Evaristo Ujueta. = Pedro Pica. = Xavier Viondi = José Julian Perez. = Sr. Comandante General de las tropas independientes D. José Maria Carreño. = *Es copia* = *Montilla.*

[*] Abuena hora acordaron los Españoles que eramos una misma familia. Antes de la victoria, eramos hijos espurios desnaturalizados, aquienes se debia destruir: despues del triunfo se acuerdan de la fraternidad, y la emplean solo para burlarse de nuestra buena fe y generosidad, haciendo detener á los vencedores, mientras que *nuestros hermanos* se largan del pais para ir á buscar nuevos exercitos.

CONTESTACION.

Señores del Cabildo de Santa Marta=Deseoso de evitar la efucion de sangre humana que por tantos años se está difundiendo con injusticia, y como autorizado igualmente para tratar con beneficencia á todo Pueblo que se somete á las armas de la República, tengo á bien el suspender toda hostilidad con esa Plaza siempre que hagan V. SS. observar los articulos siguientes=1.° Todas las armas y municiones de guerra, se pondrán en seguridad y á disposicion del Señor Coronel Narvaéz=2.°=Todos los intereses que se consideren del Estado, serán puestos en seguridad con escrupulosidad=3.°=A todo Cuerpo, ò persona comprometida con el Gobierno Español, se le dará su pasaporte sea para ultramar, ó sea para lo interior=4.°=Las propiedades de todo Ciudadano serán por mi parte respetadas, y quedo enterado de la de S. E. fecha en Santa Marta á 10 de Noviembre de 1820=*Es copia* = El Comandante general interino=*Carreño*=*Montilla.*=*Es copia*

HABITANTES DE LA PROVINCIA DE SANTA-MARTA.

Ya habeis visto el resultado de la ceguedad y obstinacion de los defensores de la Cienega. Estos hombres han sido victimas de la seduccion é ignorancia, con que el Gobierno Español ha pensado mantener perpetuamente su abominable dominacion sobre vosotros y vuestros decendientes. Ellos han muerto lidiando por ser esclavos miserables.

Habitantes de la Provincia de Santa Marta: abrid los ojos. Vuestros hermanos no ofenderán jamás á los que obedezcan nuestras sábias Leyes, ni á los que deponiendo sus errores vuelvan al ceno de la Patria, y se conduzcan como buenos Ciudadanos Unos pocos meses de experiencia, os harán conocer las grandes ventajas que os va á proporcionar vuestra emancipacion de las Españas. Ella os hará uno de los Pueblos mas opulentos y dichosos de Colombia.

Habitantes de la Provincia de Santa Marta: estais ya incorporados en el territorio de la Republica. El Gobierno supremo os garantiza vuestros derechos, como á las demás Provincias libres de Colombia. Corresponded á la generosidad y benevolencia de un Gobierno, que no funda su existencia sobre la ignorancia y estupidéz de la especie humana, sino sobre la felicidad comun é individual de los Pueblos.

Habitantes de Santa Marta: preparaos á elegir los Diputados, que deben representaros en el proximo Congreso General de Colombia. Este cuerpo augusto será el depositario de la voluntad general de la Nacion, y vosotros tendreis en él tanta parte como las demás Provincias hermanas. Escoged, pues, entre los bienes y males que os esperan.

Quartel General Divisionario de Santa Marta y Noviembre 15 de 1820.=Montilla.

VENEZUELA.

Se habia dicho, que tropas Republicanas habian penatrado en la Provincia de Caracas por la parte de Barlovento de la Capital, y hemos encontrado confirmada la noticia en la Gazeta de Caracas del 18 de Octubre corriente. Allí se refiere que algunas partidas del Llano de Barcelona y de la misma Provincia de Caracas de mas de 400 hombres habian entrado en *Curiepe*, *Tacarigüa*, y *Rio-chico*; que son compuestos la mayor parte de tropas que dependian del

Batallon de la Reyna al servicio de Morillo, y mandadas por un Coronel Zapata. Se supone dispersa una partida por tropas del Batallon Holstarich; pero se confiesa en la ya enunciada Gazeta que subsisten otras en las inmediaciones de Tacarigüa.

El resultado es, que los enemigos en el mismo centro de sus operaciones son hostilisados; que sus mismas tropas desertadas son las que hoy obran en favor de la Repùblica: que los Pueblos se apresuran à alistarse en las banderas Colombianas: y que en todas partes sienten el efecto de una opinion decidida en odio de la dominacion Española. En el Valle Dupàr y en Rio-Hacha de su propia voluntad se han armado partidas contra el enemigo: las desercciones que este habia esperimentado en Barcelona y Provincia de Cumanà han amenazado nuestras Divisiones Orientales: la del Coronel Vargas con todas sus tropas nos abriò el Occidente de Caracas: en el territorio libre no se puede señalar un solo Pueblo que se haya armado contra el Gobierno de Colombia: se ha visto que Provincias enteras han estado fuera del alcance de un cuerpo de tropas, que todas han servido con placer y puntualidad de una manera extraordinaria. ¿¿¿Y podràn persuadir los Españoles que la voluntad general no está por la Independencia???

NOTICIAS DE ESPAÑA.

(Correo del Orinoco números 83. y 84.)

Publicarémos las que hemos recibido manuscritas de canales fidedignos, y tomarémos otras de los papeles públicos.

„ A mi salida de Càdiz (dice una carta) se estaba preparando una fragata, uno ò dos buques menores de guerra y tres fragatas mercantes: cargaban estas últimas pertrechos de guerra y una cantidad considerable de provisiones, como carnes saladas, galletas, &c. restos de las provisiones preparadas para la grande expedicion. Uno de los Ayudantes de Morillo, un tal Ran Halen, Teniente-Coronel, dirigia y apresuraba la salida de estos barcos.

„ Algunas semanas àntes se tratò de mandar una porcion de oficiales y soldados en nùmero de unos 1200; pero al instante hubo tanto papel y tantos artículos comunicados contra semejante medida, que el gobierno tuvo que abandonarla, y resolvió no mandar mas que una escuadrilla de observacion, que sirviese tambien para proteger al comercio y la costa."

Nariño fué nombrado Diputado en Còrtes por Santafé; pero se hallaba refugiado en tierra extrangera para evitar el volver à la prision como lo disponia una órden de Madrid despachada cuando allì se ignoraba su nombramiento hecho en Cadiz. Mucho contribuyó à la salida de esta òrden el haber estado Nariño usando de la proclamada libertad de Imprenta en favor de la Causa de America y contra Morillo; cuya muger y partidarios impugnaban sus escritos, y se presumia que agenciaron tambien el mandato de prision. Su nombramiento ha sido tachado por un Limeño; pero es probable que en las Córtes se sostenga su eleccion. Se aproxima la instalacion de este cuerpo nacional. Mucho se espera de la mayoría de los Vocales que lo han de conponer. Se verá entonces como se conducen con el decreto de 10 de Marzo en que mandó el Rey alzar la prision y destierro de todos los perseguidos por opiniones políticas. Liberalmente entendido por todos los egecutores liberales, fueron comprendidos en su egecucion cuantos Americanos habia cónfinados en la península como insurgentes; y de esta sana inteligencia resultaron numerosas las congregaciones que se hicieron para elegir Diputados suplentes de América. Verificada la eleccion, muchos de los electores solicitaron licencia para volver à su pais; y no solo se les negó, sino que fueron muchos de ellos buscados para tornarlos à prision.

Se cree que las Còrtes pensarán de otro modo segun la calidad de Diputados. Muy probable es la emancipacion de los paises constituidos: esta es la opinon de muchos; pero la mas general es que se trate con ellos, y con sus gobiernos sin imponerles otra condicion que la de unirse intima y convencionalmente con la peninsula, dejando lo demas à su arbitrio.—Mas no opinan asi los comerciantes en mayor número, y muy particularmente los de la junta llamada de reemplazos: atentos solo à su interes mercantil quieren y pretenden que todo siga como antes. Decian que estaba ya decretada la disolucion de esta junta en consecuencia de una exposicion del ministerio de hacienda, y con órden de dar cuenta de su conducta. Todavía no està muy segura la Constitucion, porque tiene aun muchos enemigos que harán cuanto puedan por renovarla: no lo conseguirán, pero no por eso dejarán de intentarlo y provocar la guerra civil.

Noticias de España, tomadas de gazetas inglesas.

Hemos recibido recientemente varias gazetas de Paris: no contienen noticias de España de ningun interés; mas con respecto à las divisiones politicas de aquel pais, se dice en una de ellas, que los *Liberales* de España estàn divididos en cuatro partidos, que sostienen opiniones muy distintas. Uno de ellos desea que se establezca la Constitucion, como fuè promulgada por las Córtes en 1812: otro que la Constitucion sea reformada, con el fin de dàr al Rey mayor autoridad; pero estos dos partidos convienen en que se sostenga al presente Rey. Un tercer partido sugiere la conveniencia de deponer à Fernando, y colocar en el trono à un Archíduque de Austria: pero el cuarto es del todo opuesto al poder Real, y recomienda la fomacion de una República Federal. Debe esperarse que en el curso de la revolucion se formen proyectos fantàsticos de Gobierno; y no es improbable que muchos en España abriguen sentimientos como los que hemos expresado. Mas debe extravagar mucho el politico que imaginase ahora trasladar la Corona à la Casa de Austria, aunque por tanto tiempo estuvo en aquella familia: y por varias circunstancias peculiares á la España, creémos que hallá allí ménos republicanos que en ningun otro pais de la Europa.

En otra parte de nuestra gazeta se encontrarà una proclama del Rey de España á los habitantes de la America Española, (*Se alude el Manifiesto de Fernando publicado ya*) convidandolos á unirse à la madre Patria y á que gocen las ventajas de su proteccion bajo una monarquía constitucional Es esto de parte de Fernando la confesion mas humillante de su fatuidad en querer revivir el antiguo despotismo, y de su obstinacion en querer que continùe un sistema de Gobierno en que él mismo confiesa que *han ido acumulandose los males y de gracia*, contra el cual se ha elevado *el clamor general del pueblo en ambos hemisferios*; y à que se vé forzado à renunciar para siempre, y bien à su pesar, à virtud de las *egérgicas demostraciones de aquel.*

Julio 11.- Segun noticias de Madrid del 28 último, todos los Diputados de Còrtes hábian ya llegado allí Se añade que el Rey partia el 1.° del corriente para Aranjuez, pero que se esperaba que volviese à la capital el 9 para abrir las sesiones de las Córtes. Los Diputados habian tenido ya una reunion para discutir como deberian abrirse las sesiones el 9 y otros puntos de etiqueta. Los mas de los que estaban expatriados en este pais, habian sido muy bien recibidos. El Sr. Calatraba habia sido destinado al departamento de Hacienda, y otros muchos estaban al tomar su puesto en las Córtes. De Cadiz se nos dice con fecha de 20 de Junio, que se habian tenido allì noticias de Lima por vía de Panamá y la Habana de fines de Febrero; y que nada se sabia en Lima de lo que hubiese sido dél *Santelmo*, despues que la *Mariana* se separó de él á los 61° *lat.* y 60° *long.* Varios negociantes habian reprsentado al Rey la falta de fuerzas navales en el Pacifico, è inmediatamente se destinaron al mar del Sur los navios *Asia y San Julian*, ambos de 64, que llevarán tripulaciones escogidas, y que partirán con la presteza posible.

Julio 13.—Las noticias que hemos tenido de Madrid del 29 del proximo pasado hablan de dos personas, D. Baltazar Casquero y D. Francisco Ramirez, que han sido arrestados en Búrgos, porque viajando por las provincias anunciaban que Madrid estaba en conmocion, que el Rey habia sido compelido á huir, y que los habitantes se habian declarado contra la guarnicion. Encontraronse en sus baúles paquetes de cartuchos y 24 circulares de oficio en blanco y una guia de forasteros. Se añade que la casa adonde llegaron en Búrgos no tenía la reputacion de estar adherida à las nuevas instituciones. Se están tomando informes con respecto á ellos.

Julio 14.—Dicen de Madrid que los Diputados de Córtes tuvieron una sesion preparatoria en que eligieron Presidente y Secretarios interinos, y nombraron una comision que exâminase los poderes ó credenciales de los Diputados: el General Quiroga es uno de los que com-

ponen la comision. Leyóse en aquella sesion una representacion de un español-americano contra la validez del nombramiento de Diputados suplentes, que representen las provincias ultramarinas. La expedicion que se ha estado equipando en Cádiz para las colonias está al punto de partir, y consiste de una fragata y doce buques menores, que llevan Comisionados para los Gobiernos de Tierra-firme, Lima, Mèxico y Buenos-Ayres. Los mas de estos Comisionados son marinos de poca antigüedad en el servicio y que van encargados de comunicaciones importantes de parte del Gobierno Español à los insurgentes *(lo veremos.)*

CONSTITUCION ESPAÑOLA.

El Sor Luis Lopez Mendez, que desde el año de 1810 ha estado en Lóndres de Agente ordinario de Venezuela hasta que fué unida à los otros constituyentes de Colombia, ha rebatido en las gazetas Inglesas la indicacion de que los Americanos del Sur se uniesen à la España bájo un Gobierno constitucional. El Señor Mendez manifiesta en sus argumentos que ha observado atentamente la marcha de la revolucion Americana, la torpe conducta del enemigo, y los derechos de este continente: él toma sobre sí asegurar que es un delirio pensar en que puedan restablecerse los lazos que por tanto tiempo han humillado al nuevo mundo; y entre otras razones dà las siguientes:

1.ª—Las Córtes declararon guerra à la América meridional, y mientras que existieron, la hicieron con el mayor escandalo, y segun la exposicion que les presentò el Ministro de la guerra O'donojù, enviaron contra ella trece mil hombres, y enviaronlos à tiempo que los necesitaban para sostener su propia Independencia:

2.ª—Las Còrtes reusaron obstinadamente oir proposiciones de acomodamiento de los Diputados de la América meridional:

3.ª—Las Còrtes reusaron constantemente la libertad de comercio à la América meridional:

4.ª—Dos veces reusaron la mediacion que les propuso el Gobierno Inglès, que aun llegò á nombrar Comisionados à aquel intento, uno de los cuales fuè el Comodoro, ahora Almirante Cockburn:

5.ª—Tampoco consintieron en prohibir el comercio de esclavos:

6.ª—Las Córtes aprobaron y sostuvieron las crueles y opresivas medidas de Abascal en el Perù, y de Venegas en Mèxico, y sus arbitrarias infracciones de la Constitucion:

7.ª—Las Córtes aprobaron y sancionaron la mas escandalosa violacion de la capitulacion, que estipularon el General *Miranda* y el Gobernador Monteverde en Venezuela, y las crueldades en que se cebó en aquellas Provincias el Xefe Español. El General Miranda y otros patriotas fueron enviados por Monteverde á España, sin que se les hubiese juzgado y sin tener delito; y las Córtes mantuvieron al primero en los calabozos de la Carraca de Cádiz, donde murió en 1816, y à los otros en los calabozos de Ceuta, de donde se escaparon à Gibraltar, cuyo Gobernador los entregó al Gobierno Inglés para que fueran restituidos à Gibraltar.

Por último, las Córtes para disminuir el número de Representantes de la América, declararon en la Constitucion que formaron, que ningun Américano que participase en cualquier grado, por remoto que fuese, de sangre Africana, no tendria derechos de Ciudadano, ni seria incluido en los censos á virtud de los cuales, habia de nombrarse un Diputado en Córtes por cada 70,000 personas.

Patriotas de ambos Mundos.

Las gazetas de Paris anuncian que los artistas de aquella Ciudad estaban grabando troqueles para cuatro espléndidas *medallas* de dos héroes Patriotas del antiguo mundo y dos del nuevo. Las medallas tienen las siguientes inscripciones:

Hispanorum Liberator, plusquam miles QUIROGA *civis.*

Quiroga, Libertador de los Españoles, y mas que soldado Ciudadano.

Patriæ libertatem vindicat armis, BOLIVAR, *dux et civis.*

Liberta à su Patria con las armas, Bolivar, Xefe y Ciudadano.

Vixit Miles, vixit et obit civis, WASHINGTON.

Washington venció, como soldado; viviò y muriò Ciudadano

Egregio civi, nec non inclito duci KOSCIUSKO *libertatis amantes.*

Los amantes de la libertad al distinguido Ciudadano è ilustre Capitan Kosciusko.

La Provincia de Pamplona ha hecho en 11 de Noviembre la eleccion de sus Diputados para el Congreso de Colombia, y son:

Principales.

El Dr. Francisco Soto-Gobernador Politico de la Provincia
El Dr. Tiburcio Echeverria-Gobernador Politico de Bogotá
El Dr. Josè Maria Castillo y Rada-Presidente del Almirantazgo
El Dr. Casimiro Calvo-Letrado.
El Dr. Benedicto Dominguez.

Suplentes.

El Sor. Domingo Loboguerrero
El Sor. Francisco de Paula Orbegoso.
El Sor. Pacifico Jaime.
El Dr. Juan Boutista Valencia.
El Dr. Juan Nepomuceno Azuero-Eclesiastico.

BATALLON DE TUNJA.

Dice el Sor. Sub Xefe del E. M. G. en carta particular de 30 Noviembre á S. E. el Vice-Presidente: " No puedo pasar en silencio sin hacer á V. capàz de lo hermoso y brillante del Batallon Tunja. No trae un solo hombre flaco ni viejo, todos son robustos, àgiles, alegres, no se desertan, muy bien equipados, &c. Creo acreedores à nuestro aprecio en primer lugar à la Provincia que produce hombres tan buenos: en segundo al Gobernador que tanto interés ha tomado, y en tercero al Comandante y Mayor que han sabido conservarlos. "

** Otras veces lo hemos dicho: que la Provincia de Tunja tiene la gloria de haber sido la primera que recibiò y auxiliò al Exèrcito Libertador: la que puede jactarse de que ninguna otra ha hecho en 16 meses mayores servicios que ella: y que nunca ha decantado sus esfuerzos, ni ha elevado quejas al Gobierno. Tunja es digna de la consideracion general de Colombia- sin que por esto las demas Provincias de Cundinamarca dejen de tener toda la que es debida à sus continuos y extraordinarios esfuerzos y sacrificios por la Independencia- Pocas veces Pueblo alguno se ha consagrado tanto à la causa pública como el Pueblo de Cundinamarca, y pocos Pueblos como él son tan dignos de obtener su absoluta Independencia de la dominacion Española. En 16 meses han hecho las Provincias mas por su libertad, que lo que hicieron en seis años.

FIESTAS PUBLICAS

Exmo. Señor. = En obsequio de V. E. y en celebridad del triunfo de la Libertad y de las armas de la República, por donde quiera que se presentan, dedica esta Villa unas fiestas Nacionales que empiezan el 25 del corriente, à las que espera que V. E. concurra à animar, alegrar y ennoblecer con su presencia. Este será el mayor honor y la mas grande satisfaccion que en ellas pueda tener este Ayuntamiento. = Dios gue. á V. E. muchos años. Socorro Diciembre 3 de 1820. = 10.° = Exmo. Señor. = Domingo Antonio Flores. = Vicente Emigdio Chinchilla. = Francisco Xavier Bonafonte. = Luis Niño. = Mariano Mexia. = Damaso Uribe. = Exmo. Sr. Vice Presidente del Departamento de Cundinamarca, Gral. Francisco de Paula Santander.

Erratas en el número anterior.

Donde dice *Sendez*, lease, *Sendez.*

En el articulo Diccionario universal, donde dice *ruinas*, lease *minas.*

Bogotá: por Nicomedes Lora, año de 1820.

Núm. 74. [SEMESTRE 3.°] Pág. 217.

COLOMBIA.

GAZETA DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTA,

CAPITAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE CUNDINAMARCA.

Domingo 24 de Diciembre de 1820.—10.°

ENTRE-VISTA DEL PRESIDENTE DE COLÓMBIA CON EL GENERAL MORILLO.

Concluidos los tratados de armisticio general y de regularizacion de la guerra entre los Comisarios de los Gobiernos de Colombia y de España manifestó el General Morillo á sus comisionados que deseaba ardientemente tener una entre vista con el Presidente. S. E la aceptó gustoso y el 27 del presente marcharon el General Morillo desde su Quartel General de Carache y el Presidente del suyo de Truxillo al Pueblo de Santa Ana situado casi en el centro de ambos, seguidos solo de algunos Xefes y de sus Edecanes. El General Morillo destinó quatro Xefes al encuentro de S. E. y el mismo con toda su comitiva salió hasta la entrada del Pueblo á recibir al Presidente. Al acercarse hecharon prontamente pie á tierra y se precipitaron el uno acia el otro dándose estrechos abrazos. El General La-Torre hizo lo mismo y siguieron para el Pueblo donde el General Morillo tenia preparado una comida militar sencilla y delicada. No es posible dar una idea exácta de las diferentes emociones de la sensibilidad de la franqueza, sinceridad y nobleza con que Sus Exêlencias manifestaban de mil maneras la satisfaccion de que gozaban en aquel momento en que salvando de un solo paso los diez años de horror y de sangre, se veian por la primera vez, los que estaban antes destinados á un mutuo exterminio, no solo como hombres sino aun como amigos. Era reciproco el noble deseo de mostrar que un olvido eterno debia sepultar los males pasados y que debian suceder la generosidad y filantropia á la barbárie. Era general el interès de hacer prevalecer la razon al furor; el respeto á los hombres, á la actilidad de destruirlos; y que era indispensable que los tigres huyeran á vivir con los tigres cediendo el lugar á los hombres, que para sostener sus derechos respectivos no necesitan de identificarse con las fieras. En la comida reinó una alegria sincèra nacida del corazon y de la esencia misma del hombre que solo por el prestigio de la supersticion, del fanatismo ó del horror puede extinguir su especie. El General Morillo propuso que se consagrase á la posteridad un monumento que perpetuase aquel dia: que se erigiera una Piramide en cuya base se gravàran los nombres de los Comisionados de Colombia y de España que habian presentado, redactado y concluido el tratado de regularisacion de la guerra entre los dos Pueblos: que la primera piedra que debia ser el fundamento de esta Piramide fuera conducida por el Presidente de Colombia y por él, que habian aprobado y ratificado aquel tratado, lo que se veria en Europa como un documento eterno de generosidad y filantropia: y que sobre aquella piedra se renovasen sus promesas de cumplirlo estricta y fielmente, dando de este modo un caracter mas augusto y religioso á aquel convenio que debia llamarse *el de la conservacion de los que en lo sucesivo eran destinados por los dos Gobiernos á sostener sus derechos.* El Presidente adoptó la idea con transporte, y los dos condugeron al lugar donde se encontraron y abrazaron la primera vez, una piedra angular que serà la primera que servirà para la columna. Sobre ella se abrazaron de nuevo y reiteraron sus ofertas haciendo lo mismo cada uno de los Oficiales de España y de Colombia. Tambien propuso el General Morillo que los dos Gobiernos destinaran Ingenieros que se encargaran de esta obra y que se dibujase una estampa que representara al Presidente de Colombia y al General Morillo en el acto de abrazarse la primera vez.

Era admirable y aun encantador ver como la naturaleza recobró alli todo su poder haciendo olvidar las exterioridades de la etiqueta Alli todos eran hombres. Las dos Naciones estaban confundidas, y suspendiendo las trabas injustas que separan á los hombres, presentaban los corazones sus sentimientos tales quales eran. Los Españoles y Colombianos se estrechaban, se unian y se amaban como tiernos hermanos. ¡Ojalà que los dos Pueblos hubieran sido testigos de este espectáculo arrebatador! ¡Ojalà que el grito poderoso de la Naturaleza se haga oir à pesar del espantoso ruido de las pasiones injustas!

Multitud de brindis generosos y propios del dia contribuyeron à hacerlo mas agradable y à aumentar progresivamente la confianza y la alegria de la concurrencia.

1.° *A la heroica firmeza de los combatientes de uno y otro Exército, á su constancia, sufrimiento y valor sin exemplo*

2.° *A los hombres dignos que al través de males horrorosos acaban de defienden su libertad*

3.° *A los que han muerto gloriosamente en defensa de su Patria ó de su Gobierno.*

4.° *A los heridos de ambos Exèrcitos que han manifestado su intrepidez, su dignidad y su caracter.*

5.° *Odio eterno à los que desean sangre y la derraman injustamente*

El General Morillo despues de otros muchos llenos de liberalidad.

6.° *Castigue el Cielo á los que no estén animados de los mismos sentimientos de paz y amistad que nosotros.*

El Brigadier Correa.

7.° *Profiero este dia á todas las victorias de la tierra.*

D. Juan Rodriguez Toro,

8.° *La muerte me es indiferente despues de un dia tan glorioso.*

Un Colombiano,

9.° *Que la última página de la historia militar de Colombia termine en el 27 de Noviembre.*

De resto hubo amenidad, franquesa, cordialidad y confianza.

Concluida la comida, la conversacion continuó sostenida por partidas de Oficiales de una y otra parte que no cesaban de felicitarse por los acontecimientos que habian producido aquella entre-vista. Boyacá, Riego, Quiroga fueron un manantial inagotable de hechos dignos y gloriosos que se celebraron con placer. Los esfuerzos heroycos de los guerreros Colombianos y Españoles se refirieron con entusiasmo y se elogiaron con desprendimiento. En este dia memorable solo presidian la verdad y la justicia; las pasiones injustas no tuvieron entrada en un circulo de hombres que sentian toda su dignidad. Un momento de tan venturosa existencia vale por siglos.

El General La-Torre manifestó un caracter franco y liberal; presentó con candor y firmeza su adhesion á la Libertad y en el discurso de una larga conversacion con S E. el Presidente, le dijo una vez transportado: *Descenderemos juntos à los Infiernos en persecucion de los tiranos.*

El Presidente correspondió á cada uno de estos rasgos heroicos con sentimientos de admiracion y de gratitud. Enagenado durante esta entrevista ha contemplado el poder de la justicia y el triunfo de la Libertad.

A la mañana del dia siguiente SS. Excelencias se dirigieron de nuevo á la *Piedra*, se estrecharon mil veces, repitieron sus promesas y sentimientos: victoriaron alternativamente las Naciones Española y Colombiana, imitando su exemplo todos los Oficiales y se separaron llenos de placer y satisfaccion.

Tal ha sido la entrevista de Santa Ana: ¡Ojalà que sus consequências sean conformes á los sentimientos de que estaban animados los que la componian, y que una Paz honrosa, solida y duradera funde para siempre las relaciones entre la Repùblica de Colombia y la Monarquia Española; dilatando asi las del mundo!

PERU.

Se han recibido comunicaciones de uno de los Xefes del Exército Libertador al mando del General *San-Martin* de fecha 11 de Octubre corriente en el Quartel General de Pisco. Dicen que se hiso el desembarco en aquel Puerto sin oposicion: que el Exército se ha aumentado considerablemente con reclutas del Pais: que el Virrey Pezuela abriò negociaciones por medio de Comisionados los quales se reunieron en Miraflores con los del General San Martin; pero nò habiendose convenido en las proposiciones, por que las del Gobierno Español se reducian á exigir el reconocimiento de la Constitucion, y las del General Americano á exigir el reconocimiento de la Independencia, las hostilidades quedaron abiertas: que en conseqüencia el Coronel Arenales (*Patriota*) ocupò el 6 de Octubre á *Ica*, y habia marchado una Expedicion respetable á *Guamanga*, y *Guamboliea*, Provincias que esperaban con ansia á sus libertadores: que en lo general la opinion de los Peruanos es decidida por la libertad é Independencia de su Pais.

El General En Xefe del Exercito Libertador á los habitantes del Peru.

Compatriotas — La Nacion Española al fin hà recibido el impulso irresistible de las luces del siglo, hà conocido que sus leyes eran insuficientes para hacerla feliz, y que en sus antiguas instituciones no podia encontrar ninguna garantia contra los abusos del poder. Los Españoles han apelado al último argumento para demostrar sus derechos; y convencido el Rey de su justicia, ha jurado la constitucion que formaron las Córtes en 1812, llamando á la adminstracion pùblica á los mismos que antes habia proscripto por traidores: la revolucion de España és de la misma naturaleza que la nuestra: ambas tienen la libertad por objeto, y la opresion por causa.

Yo he sabido despues de mi salida de Valparaiso, que el Virrey del Perú ha mandado tambien jurar la Constitucion, y que se ha abolido en Lima el Tribunal del Santo Oficio: los motivos de su liberalidad han sido anàlogos á los que tuvó Fernando VII para adoptar aquella reforma, aunque con alguna diferencia en su objeto. El Rey juro la Constitucion, por que no quedaba otro arbitrio para salvar su trono, que seguir la tendencia de la voluntad general: el Virrey ha imitado la conducta de su amo, con la esperanza de oponer una barrera al voto de la America y evitar que coopereis á su emancipacion. Solo los conflictos en que se halla pueden excusar la injusticia que hà hecho á vuestro discernimiento, persuadiendose que la Constitucion de las Cortes sea capaz de aletargar vuestra energia y de engañar vuestros deseos: él ignora que este error és un nuevo escollo contra sus designios, por que es pasado yà el tiempo en que los Americanos véan sin indignacion los planes impostores de la politica Española para perpetuar su dominio sobre un vasto continente, que tiene la voluntad y el poder de gobernarse por sus propias leyes.

La America nò puede contemplar la Constitucion de las Córtes, sino como un medio fraudulento de mantener en ella el sistema colonial, que és imposible conservar mas tiempo por la fuerza. Si este no hubiese sido el designio de los Españoles, habrian establecido el derecho representativo de la America sobre las mismas bases que el de la peninsula, y por lo menos seria igual el número de diputados que nombrase aquella, cuando no fuese mayor, como lo exige la masa de su poblacion comparada con la de la España.

Pero ¿ que beneficios podemos esperar de un còdigo formado á dos mil leguas de distancia, sin la intervencion de nuestros representantes, y bajo el influjo del espiritu de partido que dominaba en las Córtes de la Isla de Leon? Nadie ignora que la dependencia de la America fué entonces, y será siempre el pensamiento que ocupe á los mismos xefes del partido liberal de España. Aun suponiendo que la Constitucion nos diese una parte igual en el poder legislativo, jamas podriamos influir en el destino de la America, por que nuestra distancia del centro de impulsion, y las inmediatas relaciones de la España con los Xefes del departamento executivo, darian al Gobierno un caracter parcial que anularia nuestros derechos.

El Virrey Pezuela ha obrado en esta ocasion por iguales principios que su antecesor Abascal, cuando en 813 se valiò de este mismo prestigio para deslumbrar á los incautos con la idea de una reforma; *que si al fin se verifica*, solo producirá ventajas para los que trasaron su plan, sin consultar la voluntad de la America. A más de que, no serià la primera vez que se jurase envano la decantada Constitucion de las Córtes, ni serià estraño que el choque violento de los partidos que abrasan á la Peninsula, causase al fin el mismo efecto que la ingratitud de Fernando, cuando volvió al trono cuya conservacion habia costado tan cara á los Españoles. Este és el menor riesgo á que se halla expuesto un pueblo, donde no hay un individuo que no tema la retaliacion de lo pasado, ò que nò esté dispuesto á exercitarla.

Compatriotas! vosotros conoceis por experiencia la verdad de lo que os digo: yo apelo á los hechos, y someto á vuestro juicio el exámen de la sinceridad de los Españoles. *El ultimo Virrey del Perú* hace esfuerzos para prolongar su decrépita autoridad, halagando vuestras esperanzas con una Constitucion extrangera, que os defrauda el derecho representativo en que ella misma se funda, y que no tiene la menor analogia con vuestros intereses. El tiempo de la impostura y del engaño, de la opresion y de la fuerza està yà lejos de nosotros, y solo existe en la historia de las calamidades pasadas. Yo vengo á acabar de poner termino á esa epoca de dolor y humillacion: este és el voto del Exèrcito Libertador que tengo la gloria de mandar y que me ha acompañado siempre al campo de batalla, ansioso de sellar con su sangre la libertad del nuevo mundo. Fiad en mi palabra y en la resolucion de los bravos que me siguen, asi como yo fio en los sentimientos y energia del pueblo Peruano. Quartel General del Exèrcito Libertador en Pisco Setiembre 8 de 1820. Primer dia de la Libertad del Perú. — *San-Martin.*

Soldados del Exercito Libertador.

Ya hemos llegado al lugar de nuestro destino y solo falta que el valor consume la obra de la constancia: pero acordaos que vuestro gran deber és consolar á la America, y que no venis á hacer conquistas, sino á libertar á los pueblos que han gemido trecientos años bajo este bárbaro derecho. Los Peruanos son nuestros hermanos y amigos: abrazadlos como á tales, y respetad sus derechos, como respetasteis los de los Chilenos despues de la batalla de Chacabuco.

La ferocidad y la violencia son crimenes que no conocen los soldados de la libertad, y si contra todas mis esperanzas, alguno de los nuestros olvidase sus deberes, declaro desde ahora que serà inexôrablemente castigado conforme á los artículos siguientes.

1.° Todo el que robe ò tome por violencia de dos reales para arriba serà pasado por las armas, previo el proceso verbal que està mandado observar en el Exercito.

2.° Todo el que derramare una gota de sangre fuera del campo de batalla, serà castigado con la pena del talion.

3.° Todo insulto contra los habitantes del pais, sean Europeos ò Americanos, serà castigado hasta con pena de la vida, segun la gravedad de las circunstancias.

4.° Todo exceso que ataque la moral pública, ó las costumbres del pais, serà castigado en los mismos tèrminos que previene el artículo anterior.

Soldados! acordaos que toda la América os contempla en el momento actual, y que sus grandes esperanzas penden de que acrediteis la humanidad, el corage y el honor que os han distinguido siempre, donde quiera que los oprimidos hán implorado vuestro auxilio contra los

opresores. El mundo envidiará vuestro destino, si observais la misma conducta que hasta aqui; pero ¡desgraciado el que quebrante sus deberes, y sirva de escandalo à sus compañeros de armas! Yo lo castigarè de un modo terrible, y él desaparecerà de entre nosotros con oprobio é ignominia. Quartel General del Exèrcito Libertador en Pisco, Setiembre 8 de 1820.—*San Martin.*

El Exmo Sr. D. Josè de San Martin Capitan General y en Xefe del Exercito Libertador del Peru.

Por cuanto al tiempo de proteger la libertad de los esclavos en el Perú, no ha sido nunca mi intencion atentar á las propiedades de sus amos, y sì solo amparar à los que voluntariamente quieran tomar las armas en defenza de la Patria; por tanto, he resuelto declarar lo que sigue.

1.° Todos los propietarios de esclavos, que hayan tomado servicio en el Exèrcito Libertador, ó en su ausencia los mayordomos, pueden acudir al Xefe de mi Estado Mayor General, quien les darà un documento en virtud del cual tendràn derecho dichos propietarios à ser reintegrados del valor equitativo de los esclavos, luego que se establezca en el Perú un Gobierno Nacional.

2.° En el Estado Mayor General se llevarà una razon exâcta de los documentos que se expidieren, numerandolos y tomando otras precauciones para evitar cualquier fraude.

Publiquese por bando, fixese y circulese. Dado en el Quartel General del Exército Libertador, en Pisco á 20 de Setiembre de 1820.—*San Martin.*

GUAYAQUIL.

S E. El Vice-Presidente ha recibido comunicaciones de la Junta gubernativa de aquella Provincia participando su revolucion y estado de seguridad en que se encontraba en aquella fecha, el 31 de Octubre del corriente. La opinion general de aquel Pueblo se manifiesta adherida à la union en la República de Colombia.

Por cartas particulares sabemos que la Provincia de Cuenca ha ofrecido seguir los pasos de Guayaquil: una Expedicion habia salido de esta Plaza contra los gobernantes Españoles de Quito al mando de un oficial Urdaneta. Esta operacion ha obligado à los Enemigos à abandonar el territorio intermedio de Popayàn y Pasto, el qual creemos ocupado por nuestras tropas del Sur, segun han brindado las circunstancias y ha querido el Gobierno. Como hemos visto los estados de fuerza de nuestro Exército del Sur y los medios de que podia disponer el General en Xefe, casi nos atrevemos à asegurar, que la mayor parte del Departamento de Quito estarà libre à tiempo de notificarle el armisticio general.

La Junta gubernativa de Guayaquil ha remitido à nuestros puertos á 69 Españoles arrestados en la revolucion del 9 de Octubre y expatriados de aquella Provincia. S. E. el Vice-Presidente antes de saber el armisticio ajustado en Truxillo habia ordenado se les tratase bien y decentemente.

Tambien habia expedido la siguiente órden al General del Exército de operaciones en el Magdalena.

" Bogotà Diciembre 9 de 1820. = Al Señor Comandante General del Exército sobre Santa Marta. = Tratandose de regularizar la guerra, es de necesidad conservar los oficiales y soldados prisioneros en los combates, que precedieron à la ocupacion de la Plaza, pasandoseles los socorros necesarios à su subsistencia. Los oficiales prisioneros que antes lo habian sido nuestros y desertaron al Enemigo, deben ser juzgados por un Consejo. Dios &c. = *F. P. Santander.* (*)

DEPARTAMENTO DE QUITO

Oficio del Gobernador Comandante General del Chocó.

" Nòvita Diciembre 3 de 1820—Una parte de la Columna de tropas del Chocó al mando del Capitan Francisco Garcia acaba de ocupar á *Esmeraldas*, segun resulta del parte que acompaño, remitido por el Comandante Teniente Coronel Varela. Lo que participo á V. S. para conocimiento de S. E.=Dios guarde &c. *José Maria Cansino*= Sr. Secretario de Guerra de Cundinamarca.

Parte de Garcia.

En el mismo dia que recibi la orden de V. para contramarchar recibi parte del Teniente Martin Garcia en que me dice habia logrado sorprender la Tola y la partida abansada al mando de un Oficial. En estas circunstancias resolvi marchar aceleradamente à saber la fuerza que ocupaba la Plaza de Esmeraldas, è impuesto de su nùmero segui con cien hombres hasta un quarto de legua del Pueblo sin ser descubiertos apesar de las precauciones que tenia Castro en los puntos abansados. La noche del nueve persuadido que el enemigo no tendria el menor aviso pasé el Rio a las diez con la Division primera é inmediatamente que saltamos á tierra encontramos con la primera abanzada que al punto fuè derrotada por nuestra descubierta. Luego que el enemigo de la Plaza observó que nos acercabamos cargó su fuerza sobre nosotros; pero tambien fué rechasada hasta el Pueblo en donde tenian el auxilio de quatro Cañones y parapetos por todas partes: nos hicieron la mas vigorosa resistencia por el espacio de mas de dos horas con un incesante fuego A mas de las doce ocupamos la Plaza tomandoles toda su artilleria, parque y mas de quarenta fusiles Nuestra pérdida fué de un muerto de la primera compañia y dies heridos, entre ellos el Teniente de la misma, el Subteniente Borrero y yo que recibi dos al principio aunque leves. La del enemigo ha sido de diez y nueve muertos, entre ellos un Oficial y muchos heridos que se ocultaron en los montes y se estàn encontrando; tambien quatro prisioneros. Algunos de estos se estàn presentando con sus armas y se han encontrado algunas que los prófugos han regado en los montes. H y ha sido prisionero el Teniente Castro por una partida que mandé á perseguirle y en este instante ha llegado con toda su correspondencia. La mayor parte de los Vecinos se han ya presentado y estàn llenos de placer al esperimentar lo contrario de todo lo que el malvado Teniente Castro les habia imbuido. Recomiendo á V. el honor de los Tenientes Martin Garcia, y Antonio Tello quienes se portaron con el mayor valor.=Dios y la Independencia=Quartel de Esmeraldas Noviembre 11 de 1820=*Francisco Garcia*=Sor. Comandante de la Costa Angel Maria Varela=*Es copia* Nòvita Diciembre 3 de 1820 *Por ausencia del Secretario=el Oficial primero de Secretaria G. Andrade.*

MEXICO

La siguiente comunicacion del Mariscal de Campo *Stuart* nos debe persuadir que en aquella parte de la América se combate todavia por la Libertad é Independencia y que no domina con tranquilidad el Gobierno Español este opulento territorio

Exmo. Señor = Tube el honor de ser presentado á V. E. por el General Don Xavier Francisco Mexia en la Villa de Puerto-Principe como Intendente de Exército en la Expedicion bajo su mando destinada para Mèxico; pero los asuntos importantes que hayan llamado la atencion de V. E. despues me pueden haber borrado de la memoria. Por fortuna escapè de la destruccion de esa Expedicion desgraciada y por un acidente me embarqué en un Buque llegado à la Costa Occidental de Mexico, que tenemos en nuestro poder. Salí encargado por el Gobierno Mexicano con el asunto importante de abrir comunicacion con los paises de afuera y arreglar y establecer sus relaciones extrangeras con objeto de conseguir los auxilios que necesita, para todo lo qual tengo poderes amplios. Los talentos y patriotismo de V. E. son reconocidos de todos, y siendo el Gobierno de la Nueva Granada aliado natural de los Mexicanos por su posicion geográfica, luego que llegué à Chile y supe los acontecimientos de los tres años últimos tan gloriosos para V. E. y la Nacion Granadina, (que todavia son desconocidos en México por los empeños del enemigo en cortar toda comunicacion con

(*) Es de creer que en virtud del armisticio se suspenderà este juicio, aunque el tratado de regularisacion de la guerra, no parece que se estiende á los traidores en tiempos anteriores.

extrangeros) decidí pasarme sin dilacion para tratar con el Gobierno de la Nueva Granada los asuntos pertenecientes á mi mision. Con este objeto volví á embarcarme al instante para el Chocó; pero el dueño del Buque sabiendo por medio de otro que encontramos en camino el levantamiento de este Pueblo quiso pararse aqui Espéro lograr ocasion oportuna en algunos dias de ponerme en camino otra vez para el Quartel General, entretanto B L. M de V. E = SS. = *D. Stuart.* = Al Exmo Señor Simon Bolivar Presidente de la República Granadino, Venezolana. = Guayaquil 31 de Octubre de 1820.

ESPAÑA.

En el Diario Constitucional de la Havana del 4 de Agosto se encuentran los nombres de los once oficiales destinados por el Gobierno Español con proposiciones pacificas á los Americanos del Sur.

A Caracas.

Brigadier Don José Santorio.
Capitan de Fragata Don Francisco Espelins.

A Santafe

Capitan de Navio Don Tomás Urrecha.
Idem de Fragata Don Juan Barry.

Buenos Ayres.

Coronel de Artillería Don N Herrera.
Secretario de S. M. Don N. Cortinas.
Capitan de Fragata Don Manuel M Mateo.

Chile.

Brigadier Don José Rodriguez de Arias.
Capitan de Fragata Don Manuel Abreu.

Lima.

Capitan de Navio Don Joaquin Goñi.
Capitan de Fragata Don Francisco X. Ulloa

*** Y que nos traerán estos comisionados? ¿Constitucion? Ya hemos dicho que no queremos, sino Independencia ¿Paz? La deseamos bajo la condicion de ser Independientes ¿Amistad? La tendremos, si somos Independientes. ¿Union? La formaremos, como se forma entre dos Naciones soberanas Si nada de esto se nos ofrece bajo los principios que hemos declarado, los Señores comisionados pierden su viaje, y nosotros no habremos perdido sino el tiempo.

A este propósito hemos recibido la siguiente noticia: » En carta de 2 de Agosto dice un comerciante de la Havana á otro de Puerto-Principe lo siguiente: Los partidos âqui estàn muy animados; veremos en lo que paran. Lo que causará un terrible sacudimiento, es lo que se dice de haber salido para la Amèrica Meridional once Diputados con amplios poderes del Rey para tratar con los disidentes hasta donde sea necesario, pues que sino es posible separarlos de sus ideas de Independiencia llevan la facultad de proponerles coronar allí al hijo de la Reyna de Etruria. Vea V. que consecuencias son de esperar de este paso. A Dios América en tal caso los mas mal aparejados sòmos los Cubanos = Yo ténio por nuestra Constitucion. Yà V. vè lo de Zaragoza, cafe de Lorensini, y destierros de algunos de la Còrte. Nobles, ricos, frayles, las mugeres de todos estos, los apáticos, los parsistas, es toda gente anticonstitucional. El Pueblo se ha desbandado, pues por Constitucion entiende disolucion de resortes, y en llamandolos al estrivo, de seguro corcobean. Queda pues muy poca gente al sorten, y no todos firmes. Dicèse que los Ingleses acantónan muchas tropas en Portugal. &c. ".

Se tomó esta carta en una presa hecha por Auri, procedente de la Havana para la Costa Firme.

Noticias frescas y muy verídicas.

Gazeta de Caracas del 25 de Octubre de 1820.

» Podemos ya comunicar al público que las tropas enemigas que ocupaban una parte del Virreynato de Santafé » han sido enteramente deshechas por el Exército del Sur » mandado por Calzada, y constante de 5000 hombres con » numerosa y buena Caballeria. La Capital fué precipitadamente abandonada por Santander, Xefe de aquel Gobierno y en su consequencia ocupada por Calzada, de » quien algunos cuerpos se extendian hasta el Socorro. » Santander, Valdés y otros, salvos de la derrota, han llegado velosmente á Cucuta, donde unidos al primer Xefe » del Gobierno disidente, continùan su marcha. »

Nota 1.ª En Septiembre y Octubre han salido nuestras gazetas sin intermision y ahora estamos escribiendo aun en la Ciudad que se llamaba Santafé.

Nota 2.ª: El General Valdès en fecha 28 de Noviembre avisa á S. E. el Vice-Presidente desde *Llano grande* tener reunido el Cuerpo de Exército de su mando para marchar inmediatamente á Juanambú y Pasto, de cuyos puntos habia salido el enemigo seguramente á defender la Ciudad de Quito contra la qual venia marchando de Guayaquil una Expedicion con el objeto de libertarla.

Nota 3.ª A Isquandé ha llegado un buque procedente de Panamá en calidad de Parlamentario. Tal caracter no prueba que la parte del Sur ocupada por los enemigos tenga fuersas con que venir á quitarnos el territorio que poseemos con tanta tranquilidad y seguridad.

Circular con que S. E. el Vice-Presidente ha comunicado el armisticio á los Xefes de las Provincias de su mando.

Al Gobernador Comandante General de : : : : Bogotá 19 de Diciembre 1820. = Ynclujo á V. S un exemplar autentico, y : : : : impresos del armisticio ajustado entre SS EE. el Presidente de la Repùblica, y el General en Xefe del Exército Expedicionario, y del tratado de la regularisacion de la guerra. Hagalos V. S. publicar y circular en la Provincia de su mando á los Comandantes y Justicias subalternos, cumpliendolos guardandolos, y observandolos por su parte con la mayor escrupulosidad, y velando en que quantos inmediatamente dependan de V. S. los cumplan, guarden y observen sin dar jamas motivo de que recaiga sobre V S responsabilidad alguna = Dios guarde á V S. muchos años = *F. P Santander.*

OFICIO

Quartel General de Truxillo á 1.° de Diciembre de 1820. Al Exmo Señor Vice-Presidente de Cundinamarca. = He recibido el oficio de V. E fecha de 13 de Noviembre y el informe que en 31 de Octubre último evacuo V. E. en cumplimiento del Decreto de 25 de Diciembre relativamente á la decapitacion de 38 oficiales Españoles. S E. ha visto con satisfaccion los descargos que V. E. dá, y que desea obren las justificacion ante la comision permanente á quien con esta fecha se dirigen = Dios guarde á V. E. muchos años. = El Ministro. = *Pedro Briceño Mendez.*

Al Editor de la Gazeta de la Capital.

Variadas las circunstancias de la guerra y convenido un armisticio general entre los Gobiernos de España y Colombia, debe evitar V. los sarcasmos, criticas y dicterios contra aquel Gobierno, sus Xefes y dependientes, usandose de toda la moderacion y decoro debidos á las presentes circunstancias, combatiendo los errores y pretenciones injustas sin saherir á ninguno y menos al General Morillo, que se ha hecho acreedor en esta ves á nuestra consideracion.

Estos son los deseos de S E. el Libertador Presidente, y la órden, que S. E. el Vice-Presidente me manda comunicarle. (*) De V. atento servidor. = *A. Osorio.* Secretario General.

Erratas del Numero anterior.

En el Articulo *Venezuela*, donde dice *han amenasado*, lease *han aumentado.*

(*) Haremos, pues, tambien armisticio con las plumas serviles y mercenarias que han manchado vanamente tanto papel en favor de la tirania ¿Que mejor respuesta á sus invectivas y calumnias, y que mayor confucion para ellas que ver generalmente reconocidos y proclamados los sacrosantos derechos de los pueblos, y los heroicos esfuerzos de los Colombianos admirados y apreciados hasta por sus mismos enemigos?

Imp. del Estado, por Nicomedes Lora. Año de 1820.

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COLOMBIA.

GAZETA DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTA,

CAPITAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE CUNDINAMARCA.

Domingo 14 *de Enero de* 1821. = 11.°

El 5 del presente vió esta Ciudad entrar al Libertador de Colombia, despues de haber concluido con el enemigo los gloriosos tratados de un armisticio y regulacion de la guerra para lo futuro, de que ya hemos dado cuenta al público. Estas medidas cubrirán de honor eterno al sabio Gefe que las ha adoptado y á la naciente República que marcha á su grandeza por las sendas de la justicia y la moderacion.

La presencia del inmortal Bolivar, semejante á la del Astro hermoso que brilla sobre nuestro Emisferio, produce por todas partes la salud y la vida, y su carrera puede compararse á las del Orinoco y del Magdalena que van virtiendo en sus orillas la fecundidad y la riquesa. Este pueblo y todos los del tránsito le han recibido con el mismo entusiasmo y demostraciones que quando acababa de cubrirse con los laureles de Boyacá. Nosotros vémos en este hombre singular no solo el autor de nuestra emancipacion, sino el conservador de la libertad, el augusto garante de los derechos del pueblo. ¡Salve mil veces, heroe magnanimo! ¡Cundinamarca despues de deberos su existencia, se complace en saludaros con los nuevos títulos de FUNDADOR y CONSERVADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA, y ningun mortal ha recogido á la vez tanta gloria!

ARMISTICIO.

Ha salido de esta Capital para el Sur el Teniente Coronel D Jose Moles Comisionado por el General del Exército Español para comunicar el armisticio en aquella parte. Por parte de nuestro Gobierno le acompaña el Coronel A. Morales.

El Señor Luis Aury ha solicitado ser admitido al servicio de Colombia con los buques de su pertenencia, y S. E el Libertador Presidente con fecha 11 del presente mes le ha negado su solicitud, previniendole salir con dichos buques de nuestro territorio.

RIO-HACHA.

Por avisos del Coronel Narvaes sabemos que los habitantes de los Pueblos de Rio-Hacha y Valle Dupár continúan sometiendose voluntariamente á la obediencia de la República y presentando armas y otros auxilios.

CUMANA.

Una Cañonera enemiga salió de esta Plaza en auxilio de otras, que crusaban en las bocas del Orinoco: se decidió su Comandante y equipage por el partido de la República: en vez de dar auxilio batió las otras cañoneras, apresó dos y se presentò á nuestro Exército del Oriente. (*Carta de Angostura de 22 de Noviembre último*)

GENERAL MORILLO.

De Truxillo se comunica en 25 de Diciembre pasado, que el Teniente General D. Pablo Morillo se ha embarcado en Puerto-Cabello para su Patria, habiendose despedido del Exército Expedicionario por una proclama, y dejando el mando de él al Mariscal de Campo D. Miguel de La-Torre.

PERU.

En carta de 8 de Noviembre pasado escrita en el Puerto de *Ancon* por un Xefe del Exército del General *San-Martin* se comunica á S. E. el Libertador, que la revolucion de Guayaquil fué promovida y egecutada en gran parte por los Oficiales Letamendi, Cordero, Urdaneta, y Villamil que pertenecian al Batallon 1.° de Numancia del Exército Expedicionario.

"La tropa de este Batallon reducida á 800 hombres que está de guarnicion en Lima se puso en comunicacion con el General San-Martin: la imprudencia de algunos Oficiales que se precipitaron á dar el golpe los ha conducido á una prision en el Castillo de San Felipe. Alzuru y Lucena son dos de las victimas.

"El Vice-Almirante de Chile Lord *Cochranne* tomó al asalto el 5 de Noviembre á la *Esmeralda*, y sacó de debajo de las baterias de este Puerto una Fragata Española de guerra y dos cañoneras, habiendo echado á pique otra cañonera."

☞ La conducta de los Oficiales y tropa al servicio del Rey y la que han usado los Pueblos de Cuenca, Guayaquil y parte de los de Quito, demuestran evidentemente que la opinion general de los Americanos está decidida por la Independencia de su Patria y que es una impostura la de nuestros Enemigos el pretender persuadir al mundo que deseamos depender del Gobierno de España. Con hechos reales y positivos desmiente Colombia las imputaciones que se le hacen en el particular, y mientras se publican manifiestos y gazetas para probar que el deseo de la Independencia no es universal, el territorio de la República se ensancha por los esfuersos de los Pueblos, y las tropas Independientes se refuersan y aumentan con los Oficiales y tropas que abandonan voluntariamente el partido de España.

GUAYAQUIL.

Por las notas oficiales que pasará á V. S el Señor Capitan mayor C. J. A. Muñoz se impondrá V. S. de la situacion de esta plaza, y de la disposicion de toda la Provincia en sostener su Independencia. Nuestra situacion puede acelerar la suerte de esta parte de la América entre Popayan y el mar hasta la costa de Tumbes, especialmente cuando Cuenca es ya libre, y cuando una Division protectora que remitimos á Quito está ya á las puertas de la Ciudad, y todas las provincias comarcanàs respiran ya bajo los auspicios de la libertad

Este Gobierno se apresura á poner en conocimiento de V. S. esta importante situacion por lo que debe influir en sus operaciones militares.—Dios y Libertad. Guayaquil Noviembre 22 de 1820—*Jose Joaquin de Olmedo* presidente de la Junta de Gobierno—C. General del exército expedicionario de Colombia contra Quito.

LONDRES 14 DE SEPTIEMBRE.

El *Courier* publica hoy algunas proclamas de la Junta de Oporto. Estas piezas, asi como las cartas que se han recibido de la misma Ciudad, son todas del 30 y 31 de Agosto; asi nada de nuevo nos dicen. Solo confirman que ninguna Ciudad fuera de la Provincia de Minho, ha enviado cartas ni Diputados á Oporto. La Junta en un largo manifiesto, ha expuesto todas las quexas verdaderas ó pretendidas, de la nacion Portugueza: ruedan sobre la dependencia en que está el Portugal respecto del Brazil, sobre la ausencia del Rey y de la Corte, sobre los desórdenes en la administracion, efectos de esta ausencia. La Junta alaba el caracter y las intenciones del Rey; protesta su inalterable fidelidad á la casa de Braganza,

y la indivisibilidad del *Imperio Lusitano*. La Junta empieza esta frase: Convoquemos las Côrtes, *conforme al uso de nuestros antepasados*, lo que inclina á esperar que no se trata en Portugal de una revolucion completa, y que los mismos rebelados reconocerán las antiguas Côrtes legítimas, si el Rey juzga á proposito convocarlas. Por lo demas, las medidas tomadas en Oporto son obra de siete á ocho individuos, á cuya cabeza está el Coronel Sepulveda. Este Coronel es de una familia noble de traz-los Montes; su padre fué el primero en armarse contra los Franceses, y fué recompensado por el Rey, que le diò el título de *Vis-Conde de Heròadoza*, título que ha heredado el hermano primogenito del Coronel. Los otros Miembros de la Junta no han aceptado su nominacion, sino quando se les ha dado la seguridad de que el movimiento no se dirigia contra el Rey ni contra la dinastia. En todas las proclamas de la Junta no hay una palabra contra la Inglaterra.

Francia.-Paris 31 de Agosto—Se lee hoy en el *Journal officiel*: Motivos que es facil apreciar, nos han prescrito una gran reserva sobre los hechos relativos al Complot, cuyo descubrimiento habiamos anunciado, y á los individuos prevenidos de haber tenido parte; creemos no obstante hoy poder ya publicar los nombres de las personas reducidas á prision hasta el presente.

Desgraciadamente parece bien demostrado que estas criminales maquinaciones, que se tramaban en muchos de los cuerpos que componen la guarnicion de Paris, se extendian sobre otros puntos de la Francia. La instruccion que actúa la Cámara de los Pares descubrirá todas las ramificaciones. Ella alcanzará á todos los culpables y aclarará todas las sospechas. Hacia largo tiempo que la autoridad estaba atenta á las intrigas y seducciones que se ponian en obra para con los militares. A mediados del mes avisos positivos no permitieron dudar de la inminencia de un Complot. La conducta llena de lealtad de dos Oficiales de la legion del Norte y de dos Oficiales de la guardia Real, que informaron á sus Xefes de las proposiciones de rebelion que se les habian hecho; las confesiones en fin de algunos de aquellos que se habian dexado arrastrar al principio en el Complot, acabarán de instruir al Gobierno de todo lo que se tramaba.

Los conjurados en el temor de ser descubiertos, y sospechando que la autoridad estaba sobre las huellas de sus maquinaciones, tomaron la desesperada resolucion de intentar, en la misma noche del 19 al 20 un golpe de manò. A la media noche, hombres de confianza debian asegurarse de los Oficiales superiores de cada cuerpo, y deshacerse de ellos en caso de resistencia. Los Oficiales que estaban en el complot pasarian al punto á las casernas, harian tomar las armas á los soldados, y anunciarian á las tropas reunidas que el Rey habia muerto. Esperaban poder, al auxilio de la turbacion y de la confusion que habia de producir esta noticia y los falsos rumores con que debian acompañarla, enagenar la fidelidad de las tropas, hacerles proclamar al hijo de Bonaparte, y conducirlas al ataque del Castillo y de la familia Real. Es de observarse, que algunos dias antes de la època señalada, la noticia de la muerte del Rey habia sido difundida en muchos Departamentos y con especialidad en Metz, en Leon, Burdeos, &c.

El Gobierno apoyado en estos informes, creyó que era tiempo de detener á los facciosos y evitar de esta manera que no arrastrasen por las sendas de la sedicion un mayor número de hombres extraviados. A las nueve de la noche, los culpables designados fueron sorprendidos y entregados á la justicia. Los que se hallaban en las casernas, fueron arrestados á la primera orden de los Xefes de sus cuerpos respectivos, por los Oficiales y soldados interezados en separar de sus rangos á hombres que habian faltado á sus juramentos; los otros fueron arrestados por la gendarmeria; ninguno intentò resistencia. Las personas conducidas á las prisiones de la Capital, se asegura ser veinte y dos.... Despues de estas primeras prisiones, las deposiciones recibidas y documentos hallados en el domicilio de los prevenidos, han excigido otras nuevas.... Sàbese lo sucedido en Cambrai. Muchos oficiales de la legion del Sena habian formado el proyecto de arrastrar la legion, y conducirla á Paris para favorecer la insurreccion. Nueve de estos oficiales.... han tomado la fuga. Otros tres han sido arrestados....

Paris 16 de Septiembre.-A las noticias que hemos dado ayer sobre la situacion de Portugal, y que están bàxo la data del 3 de Septiembre, nosotros podemos añadir como una cosa no menos cierta y no menos autèntica, que la Regencia que reside en Lisboa, al momento que ha sabido las medidas ilegales adoptadas en Oporto, y el acto sedicioso que se habia originado, ha convocado sin tardanza en virtud del poder supremo de que es depositaria y conforme á las leyes fundamentales, las antiguas Côrtes del Reyno. Esta sàbia y política determinacion habia reunido al rededor de la Regencia una gran parte de los hombres, que deseando sincéramente el remedio á algunos abusos y mutaciones en la administracion interior, no están con menos sinceridad adheridos á la casa de Braganza, y habian visto con espanto la iniciativa usurpada por la fuerza militar y por hombres sin mision.

Sicilia-Nàpoles 29 de Agosto-Extracto de una carta particular: el terror reina entre nuestros revolucionarios. Un Despacho del Duque de Gallo anuncia que el Gobierno Austriaco le ha prohibido la entrada de sus Estados, y que no obstante él tratará de pasar las fronteras bàxo de un otro nombre, aunque tiene poca esperanza de ser escuchado. Se sabe al mismo tiempo que el Gobierno Papal ha reclamado la cooperacion de un cuerpo Austriaco para reducir á Benevento y á Ponte-Corvo. Este cuerpo auxîliar, en virtud de los tratados existentes entre Nàpoles y Roma, vá á pedir paso por el territorio Napolitano, y nuestiros *Carbonari* se verán en la alternativa de admtirlo ò declararle la guerra. Bastarà la vista de un cuerpo Austriaco para que en una gran parte del Reyno, y especialmente en los Abrusos, el partido enemigo de toda Constitucion contenido por las bayonetas, se declare altamente contra los revolucionarios. Hàblase de un manifiesto de un Poder extragero que invitarà á los verdaderos Napolitanos á sacudir el yugo deshonroso que se ha impuesto al Rey y á la Nacion.

Mientras que nos amenaza una tempestad de la parte del Norte, nosotros hablamos aqui de embarcar seis mil hombres, bàxo el General Florestan Pepe, para combatir á los Sicilianos que no quieren ser revolucionados á nuestro modo.

Algunos furiosos han presentado una peticion al Vicario General *(del Reyno)*, para hacer vertir la sangre de los Sicilianos *que se hallan en Nàpoles*. S. A. R. despues de haber tentado todos los medios para calmarlos, les dixo: *Pues bien, corred á la venganza! Comenzad por mis tres hijos: ellos han nacido en la Sicilia!* Diciendo estas palabras, el Principe mostró con el dedo la puerta de la Cámara donde estaban sus hijos. Este rasgo de sabiduría y de magnanimidad hace el asunto de todas las conversaciones, y darà á los políticos materia á reflexion. Una ordenanza prohibe presentarse en número de mas de tres para hacer solicitudes ó peticiones á las autoridades.

España-Madrid 6 de Septiembre-Se sabe que el General Riego, habiendo llegado á Madrid sobre la orden que le habia sido reiterada de que siguiese á Galicia á encargarse de su mando, y de disolver el cuerpo de Exército acantonado en la Isla de Leon, habia tratado en vano de hacer variar sobre este punto la resolucion del Rey y del Gobierno. Solo habia recogido de sus esfuersos un nuevo mandato de obedecer. No era esta la intencion del General y del partido que le habia llamado. Todos los medios, pues, fueron empleados por èl y por los suyos para asegurar el suceso de su resistencia.

Entre otros medios para conmover las pasiones y poner las armas en manos de los partidos, el General Riego, habiendo ido en la noche del 31 al teatro, no temiò comprometerse de la manera mas burlesca, entonando una cancion que tratò de enseñar al patio repitiendola muchas veces, y cuyas coplas se terminan por un refran del estilo mas baxo: *tragala perro*. Esta cancion, fuè dos dias despues el asunto de una escena que ha estado sobre el punto de ser sangrienta. El 3 de este mes, el General Riego asistiò á un banquete que le dedicaron las sociedades patrióticas, y en el qual se observò que el Gene-

ral Quiroga habia rehusado hallarse, declarando que desaprobaba la conducta y la temeridad de su colega.

Despues del festin se dió en el teatro *Principe* una representacion extraordinaria en honor de Riego. Executose una nueva pieza, *Henrique 3.° de Castilla*, que no se distinguiò sino por una multitud de sentencias revolucionarias. A la mitad de esta pequeña pieza el patio pidiò la cancion favorita *traga la perro*. Suscitose entonces una altercacion muy viva entre el Xefe Politico y Riego, que dexó bruscamente el palco de la Municipalidad. El Xefe Politico declaró al patio que no se cantarian las coplas pedidas, porque no habian sido anunciadas en el cartel de la representacion del dia: y dirigiendose à los actores, les prohibió entonar la cancion.

Siguiose un espantoso tumulto: se estuvo sobre el punto de escalar el palco del Xefe Politico. Vieronse armas desnudas; se reunió la guardia doble del teatro y cargó las armas en la calle: el espectáculo cesó, y el Xefe Politico se trasladó al Palacio con una escolta. Estos ùltimos excesos han convencido al Gobierno de la necesidad de poner un freno à las sociedades populares; y el 4 se ha hecho á las Còrtes una proposicion dirigida à reprimir la licencia de las sociedades llamadas *Patrióticas*. El General Riego, destituido de la Capitania General de la Galicia, ha sido enviado à guardar Quartel á Oviedo, su patria.....

Madrid 7 de Septiembre – Extracto de una carta particular: los habitantes de Madrid han aprobado con entusiasmo las medidas que ha tomado el Gobierno contra el faccioso Riego. La Capital de las Españas està, pues, tranquila, à pesar del proyecto que tenian los mal-hechores de sembrar en ella la turbacion. La generalidad de los miembros de las Còrtes aprueba igualmente la energia desplegada en esta circunstancia por el Gobierno. Sabese por las ultimas noticias de la Isla de Leon que las órdenes del Gobierno se executan allí. Estas medidas de un sabio rigor hacen esperar que la España evitarà las desgracias espantables de que parecia amenazada. Se toma otra medida no menos esencial; tratase de suprimir todas las sociedades llamadas *Patrióticas* (que no son otra cosa que los Clubs de Francia de 1793). Dios lo quiera!

En Castilla, un destacamento de malcontentos habia sido asegurado por los habitantes de muchas aldeas. Dicen que por conseqüencia de esta consagracion, dichas aldeas han sido eximidas de toda contribucion por muchos años de expresa orden del Rey. ¿Que garantía mas convincente se quiere de la buena fé del Soberano? (*The* Trinidad Gazette)

ORACION FUNEBRE QUE EN LAS EXEQUIAS DE LA DIFUNTA INQUISICION, EN LA VILLA DE LA IGNORANCIA, EN EL TEMPLO DE LA SUPERSTICION PRONUNCIO UN MINISTRO DE ELLA.

En este dia lleno de terror y luto, vosotros ignorantes, amados oyentes mios, verted las làgrimas mas amargas nacidas del dolor sobre la tumba fúnebre donde se ha hundido nuestra amada Inquisicion. ¡O santo establecimiento, que nuestra madre la ignorancia sostuvo por tantos siglos con heroico empeño! Quién dijera que los torvos ilustradores de los inocentes que eran tan faciles de alucinar, al fuerte soplo de la razon habian de derribar tan sólidos cimientos! Enterneceos à vista de este trágico suceso: apagad las antorchas y luces que iluminan el Templo, porque era la difunta enemiga acérrima de ellas: cubridlo de lúgubres bayetas, impidiendo que entren los rayos del Sol, para que en todo se parezca à la que tanto lloramos. ¡Santa obscuridad! ¡Caos inmenso que sepultaba à los Españoles en el fanatismo y en la superstition! En tu existencia nos apoyabamos solo. Pero desapareciste y ya no nos queda mas remedio que revolcarnos en sus cenizas. ¡Cenizas respetables! Vosotras habeis de inmortalizar el nombre de esta caritativa, piadosa y santa casa.

¡Caritativa...! ¿Como si lo fuè? Por caridad, no tan solamente se contentaba con enterrar los muertos (que es obra de misericordia) sino que tambien sepultaba los vivos: por caridad dejaba disfrutar las noches tan claras como los dias à los presos que guardaba: por caridad tenia calabozos donde se vólvian los hombres sanos ¡Exceso de caridad!

Piadosa! lo fué: socorria à los hartos con doble racion de hambre. A los sanos y robustos dejaba, à fuerza de sus religiosos y catòlicos desvelos, enfermos, escualidos y macilentos, ella repartía pródiga las torturas: ella proporcionaba la corona del martirio aun á aquellos que no la querian: en fin, su piedad se estendia mas abajo de sus cimientos, pues tenia al intento inmundos subterraneos que casi abrian comunicacion con los antípodas. ¡Tan piadosa era la difunta!

¡Santa! Si, santa, santisima, y aun mas que santisima era: asi sus ministros hacian milagros patentes diariamente convirtiendo hereges à la fuerza, castigando brujos y brujas, y conjurando duendes. Ellos tenian poder contra el de los polvos de la madre Celestina, efectos todos de una admirable santidad.

¡O! como se conoce que los que atentaron contra ella no habian disfrutado de sus benéficos influjos! Si los hubiesen probado, apostara yo que quedarian sin fuerza para hacer tales travesuras.

¡O dias por nuestro mal pasados! ¡O máximas serviles! ¡Volved ahora, y restituidnos el antiguo poder para apagar las luces de los ingenios

Poco tiempo ha que era tanto el amor qué algunos te profesaban; que entrando en tu recinto, por no desampararte no salian mas à ver la luz del Sol. Es cierto que nadie moria en él; pues no se ha visto sacar cadaver alguno de adentro de sus rústicas paredes. Sin duda que aun los mas hereges, purificando allí sus pecados, subian despues en cuerpo y alma á los Cielos.

Y aun osaràn llamarla los inicuos, negra, injusta é impia! Blasfemos, temblad: sacrílegos, llegará el dia, el terriblisimo dia en que el Juez Supremo de lo Criado os pedirá cuenta de los insultos hechos á la Santa Casa. ¡Librar los presos: registrar sus recónditos rincones, donde quedaban aun reliquias de una anatomia humana, y abrir sin temor de Dios los libros prohibidos por el santo tribunal!

En vano, en vano castigamos severamente á un infeliz manccebo que sin entender el latin leia el ars amandi de Ovidio; pues que en estos tiempos se leerà hasta el Fr. Gerundio que analizó el talento de ciertos misionistas pedantes, y otros papelejos que tantas luces prestan à los crédulos.

¡Sacra ignorancia! ya con el mas vehemente dolor veo derrocarse tu dominio; presto quedarás sin vasallos: presto se aniquilarà tu imperio: desparecerà del mundo el estúpido error, y quedará sin fuerza tu poder. Soplará la ilustracion, y entonces ya todos los hombres por si mismos sabrán ser felices... Mas no lo veremos nosotros, los hipòcritas y egoistas, que primero preferiremos sepultarnos en el olvido de las generaciones presentes y futuras, que mirar con faz serena la prosperidad del próximo.

Amados oyentes mios, acudid todos à menudo à este lúgubre templo y rogad al Dios del universo diciendo conmigo con fervor: " Señor, por tu inmensa piedad te suplicamos que ya que en adelante no tendremos el gusto y balsámico placer de quemar á nuestros queridisimos hermanos, y ya que el diamantino corazon que para amar al próximo como à nosotros mismos nos diò la próvida naturaleza, no tendrá víctimas en quienes saciar su implacable furia, permite que abriendose la tierra que nos sostiene nos trague à un tiempo con la difunta, no siendo de este modo tristes testigos de sus oprobios en beneficio de la humanidad. „ Amen.

Rasgo tomado de la Obra sobre las Colonias de M. de Pradt.

La revolucion de las Colonias no es un acontecimiento fortuito ó inesperado, no es sino el producto necesario de los elementos que se desenvuelven y de que ellas se componian; de los gérmenes que encerraban en si mismas; de las instituciones que las regian; de la ciencia, en fin, de las manos que las han gobernado: comparando los principios del óden colonial, con las medidas adoptadas por todos los pueblos en la administracion de sus Colonias, se encuentra que han acabado por quedar entre las manos del solo pueblo, que ha tenido ideas verdaderamente coloniales, los Ingleses. En las Colonias como en

todas partes nada es efecto de la casualidad; la casualidad es la divinidad de los ciegos, servida por la irreflexion: la razon por el contrario no admite por mòviles y por prueba de los acontecimientos sino la naturaleza misma de las cosas, la observacion y la experiencia. Asi es, que falsamente se atribuye à Napoleon la separacion de la Amèrica y la España; no ha hecho sino acelerar el momento, que debia hacer pùblico su divorcio; es verdad que ha cortado el cable que las retenia aun, pero el tiempo le habia ya gastado, y asi reducido á algunos hilos que por sumergidos bajo de las aguas nos impedian conocer su debilidad, se habrià roto al fin à pocos dias. Si Napoleon en lugar de usar de su poder para conducir de frente dos guerras de Independencia, en las quales ha perecido, una por mar contra la Inglaterra, otra por tierra contra la Rusia, hubiese empleado la fuerza de su brazo en servicio de la Independencia de Amèrica, acontecimiento que por otra parte miraba como escrito en el gran libro de la naturaleza y de la necesidad, rompiendo las cadenas de la Amèrica, rompia al mismo tiempo las que la superioridad marìtima de la Inglaterra impone á la Europa y à la Francia. Despojada esta ùltima de todas sus Colonias, es entre todos los estados de Europa, el que tiene mas necesidad de la emancipacion de la América: ninguna consideracion de soberania de familia debe detenerla; no hay para las naciones otros intereses, que los del Estado.

Un sistema general de benevolencia en favor de todos los pueblos, tal como el que forma el fondo de esta obra, no puede descansar sino sobre la verdad y la imparcialidad; ellas solas han inspirado todo lo que se leerà; mostrar à los hombres, que no tienen otro interes verdadero, que el de la felicidad de sus semejantes, y que el origen de la abundante prosperidad de los unos es la prosperidad misma que procuren à los otros, extender los limites de la libertad, multiplicar las relaciones de comercio, presentar todas las riquezas del mundo como un fondo comun creado por el Cielo, para que cada miembro de la gran familia de el gènero humano tome de él su parte segun los grados de su trabajo y de su indùstria; sofocar las maximas zelosas y rencorosas de el antiguo tràfico, enseñar á los pueblos que no tienen interes en dominar los unos sobre los otros, sino solamente en comerciar juntos, extinguir, ó por lo mènos prevenir por este medio muchas causas de violencia, de ruina y de guerras: tal ha sido el fin que nos hemos propuesto.

Nadie puede dexar de sentir quan incompatible es con la apariencia sola de el proyecto, la idea de ensalzar ò deprimir à qualquiera que sea, de envanecer á los unos, ò de affigir á los otros. Los aduladores y los detractores de las naciones son tan odiosos, como los aduladores ó los detractores de los individuos. Todo lo que se dirà acerca del estado colonial, comerciante y marìtimo, consiste en hechos: que se destruyan y nada nos costarà reconocer el error; pero mientras subsistan en pie, que nadie se irrite por verlos enunciados .... Los escritores son los suplentes natos de los legisladores, quando no son sus precursores, y el silencio de aquellos les autoriza à tomar la palabra. ¿En què caso puede un escritor hacer un mejor uso de esta iniciativa, que quando se trata de reclamar un termino á las crueldades, cuyo espantoso torrente cubre hoy la faz de América? Como los executores de tales crueldades sirven mal á la España, han hecho nacer en el corazon de los Americanos odios inextinguibles: han hecho que se transporte à la América todo el interes de este drama lamentable, y que se despierte el cruel recuerdo de las atrocidades, que la primera vez dieron à la España el imperio de aquellos climas: mas los tiempos han cambiado: lo que la sirvio entonces, la perderà en el dia. Los imperios todos han mudado de nombre, de faz y de señores. Uno solo eterno é imprescritible ha quedado en pie: la razon, la humanidad, la naturaleza, lazo indisoluble, que estrecharán mas y mas quantos exfuerzos se hagan para rómperle. Al ver un pueblo entero, immenso, entregado al exterminio en nombre de los derechos de la Soberania, se excita naturalmente el deseo de preguntar, ¿si las Naciones han sido hechas para la Soberania, ó la Soberania para las Naciones? ¿Si no deberá todo referirse á ellas, pues que en el órden social todo proviene de ellas? Si declarar á todo un pueblo rebelde es ya demasiado, ¿Qué deberà parecernos, ver á un mundo entero declarado rebelde por una parte de otro mundo, que manda al primero que no cese de ofrecerse en sacrificio a sus miras interesadas? Que à esto se reduce toda la querella de la España contra la América.

Santa verdaderamente seria la alianza, que tomase por su cuenta esta causa sagrada, y que prescribiese un termino al abominable derecho de exterminio, que el feroz soldado de la España ha transportado à la América. Despues de la opresion, nada es ciertamente mas odioso que la rebelion; mas si la Amèrica es rebelde, será necesario declarar rebelde á la naturaleza, que prescribe al hombre, que no se dexe destruir ni arruinar: á la naturaleza, que separa de sus padres al hijo que ha llegado a ser hombre: serà necesario declarar rebelde à la savia, que con el tiempo hace, que la encina jóven dispute el vigor y la verdura al arbol mismo, que dexando caer su propia semilla, dió nacimiento á este rival: todo se asemeja en la naturaleza; todo ha sido hecho para sucederse y remplazarse, y la humanidad no es un àrbol abandonado al capricho de ciertas manos armadas con un hierro para cortar ó encorvar sus armas al grado de su fantacia.

Si esta sangrienta oposicion à la emancipacion de la Amèrica es cruel para estas regiones, es igualmente funesta para el mundo entero, porque, ¿quién podrià numerar los bienes de que esta libertad serà el principio? No lo dudemos, de la América no està aun descubierto sino el nombre y la geografia: los tesoros que contiene en su seno son todavia tesoros ocultos, que su libertad sola puede revelar al mundo. Por esta libertad unicamente entrará el comercio en posesion de todos los caminos, de todos los manantiales que las combinaciones de propiedad privada habian cegado. Quando todas las costas de América, que miran al occidente, puedan comerciar con el Asia, quando las que miran al oriente sigan el curso natural de sus relaciones con el Africa y la India, se verá que los mares fatigados bastan apènas al transporte de las producciones, que permutarán á un tiempo estas regiones favoritas del sol. Quando no haya entre el hombre y la tierra otros reguladores que el trabajo y la industria, entònces se sabrá lo que puede el mundo y lo que vale. Hasta aquí no ha recibido sino una direccion violenta y forzada: la emancipacion de la América le harà conocer su valor y sus fuerzas, pondrá en contacto todas las partes, y en plena actividad todas las facultades del globo, que separadas y comprimidas por las barreras y ligaduras de las leyes prohibitivas de cada pueblo, no habian podido ni medirse, ni calcularse juntas hasta ahora.

Sabemos por la historia que quando los feroces compañeros de Almagro y Pizarro llegaron à la altura de las cordilleras, viendo el Perú á sus pies, y el Oceano pacifico delante de sus ojos, cayéron en tierra prosternados al aspecto de las tierras nuevas, de los nuevos mares que descubrian desde lo alto de estas cimas heladas, abrumados, por decirlo asi, con el peso de los bienes con que la bondad del Cielo recompensaba su audacia. El asombro y el reconocimiento reunidos aterraron á estos hombres, cuyo pecho debia haber armado la naturaleza, no mènos para las hazañas, que para los crimenes, de una coraza mas impenetrable, que la que un poeta atribuye al primer navegante: lo que sintieron estos hombres, lo sentimos como ellos: no se puede menos de ceder al mismo movimiento de sorpresa y alegria, entregandose à la contemplacion de los bienes de que la emancipacion de América colmaria al universo. La imaginacion es estéril para representarlos, è impotente la palabra para pintarles.

Aun no hay mas que un paso dado en la carrera, y ya las hijas del Brasil han venido á sentarse sobre los tronos de Europa. Una hija de los Césares vá à asociarse al cetro del Brasil, y otras le seguirán despues. Los dos mundos confundiendo su sangre, en lugar de derramarla mutuamente, substituirán los lazos de familia à las cadenas, con que estaban oprimidos, y acercarán ásì la humanidad al destino, que el Cielo la ha asignado al formarla, á saber, el de componer una sola familia animada de los mismos sentimientos, pues que la habia dotado de las mismas facultades.

Imp. del Estado, por Nicomedes Lora. Año de 1820.

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COLOMBIA.

GAZETA DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTA,

CAPITAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE CUNDINAMARCA.

Domingo 21 *de Enero de* 1821. = 11.°

SIMON BOLIVAR LIBERTADOR PRESIDENTE DE COLOMBIA &c. &c. &c.

PROCLAMA.

A LOS SOLDADOS DEL EXERCITO LIBERTADOR.

Soldados! —El primer paso se ha dado ácia la paz. Una tregua de seis meses, preludio de nuestro futuro reposo, se ha firmado entre los Gobiernos de Colombia y de España. En este tiempo se tratará de terminar para siempre los horrores de la guerra, y de estancar las heridas de Colombia. El Gobierno Español, ya libre y generoso, desea ser justo para con nosotros. Sus Generales han mostrado franca y lealmente su amor á la paz, á la Libertad, y aun á Colombia. Yo he recibido en nombre de vosotros los testimonios mas honrosos de la estimacion que les mereceis - Soldados! La paz hermosea con sus primeros y esplèndidos rayos el emisferio de Colombia, y con la paz, contad con todos los bienes de la Libertad, de la Gloria y de la Independencia. Pero si nuestros enemigos por una ceguedad, que no es de temer ni aun remotamente persistieren en ser injustos; ¿no sois vosotros los hijos de la victoria? —Quartel General en Barinas á 7 de Diciembre de 1820=BOLIVAR

El Sor. Coronel Macero que obra por la Costa de Caracas, con un cuerpo del Exército de Oriente, ha obtenido dos brillantes triunfos debidos á la opinion y al valor. Marchando ácia Curiepe el 3 de Octubre encontró con un Destacamento del Exército Español que se disponia á batir. Mientras se preparaba vino un parlamentario del Destacamento, anunciandole que separado de la influencia y de los Xefes del Exército Español, deseaba alistarse en las Banderas de Colombia. Aceptados por el Señor Coronel Macero los servicios de este Destacamento, fueron reunidos al Cuerpo de su mando, un Capitan, quatro Cornetas, cinco Tambores, y ciento cincuenta Sargentos, Cabos y Soldados, completamente armados, entre ellos algunos Españoles. Los demàs Oficiales se habian separado con anticipacion. Continuó el Sor. Coronel Macero su marcha, y batiendo y tomando las armas, municiones, y Artilleria de una fuerte columna situada en el Pueblo de Tacarigua, lo ocupó el 6; el 8 á Rio-Chico de donde sus defensores se retiraron precipitadamente, y seguia aquella direccion aproximandose á Caracas=Las partidas del Sor. General Bermudes en el alto llano poseen tranquilamente los Valles de Orituco y Camatagua, y ningun cuerpo de la Vanguardia Española en Calabozo se habia atrevido á molestarlas. El Exército de Oriente iba á moverse sobre los Valles de Ocumare. De resultas de las continuas agitaciones que han ocurrido en las guarniciones Españolas de Cumaná y sus Costas, se asegura que el Fuerte de Carupano (donde hubo antes una sublevacion) ha sido evaquado y lo ocupan nuestras tropas; de suerte que las posesiones Españolas en aquella Provincia estàn reducidas á la Capital= Dios guarde á V. S. muchos años= El General Xefe=*Antonio José Sucre.*

OCUPACION DE BARCELONA Y LIBERTAD DE TODA LA PROVINCIA.

(Correo del Orinoco num.° 86)

Extracto de los partes oficiales dirigidos á S. E. el Vice-Presidente de Venezuela por el Sr. General Monagas.

El 22 de Octubre nuestras tropas al mando del expresado General tomaron posesion de la Capital de Barcelona. El Xefe Español *San-Just* atrincherado en una casa fuerte en el Portugal con el puente cortado; pero justamente receloso de ser embestido por todas partes, se retirò durante la noche al Morro, donde se mantenia bájo el auxilio de tres flecheras.—Entretanto se quedaban acitvando las operaciones necesarias para desalojarlo de una posicion precaria en que està reducido à los escasos recursos que pueda recibir por mar.

Habiendo el General Monagas dejado guarnecido á Barcelona con una respetable columna marchó àcia Quiamare en solicitud de Francisco Guzman (alias *Chigual*) y le atacó vigorosamente la mañana del 2 del corriente en una fragosa montaña, donde se habia atrincherado con una pieza de artilleria. La victoria no tardó mucho en declararse à nuestro favor, y el enemigo para evitar su entera destruccion abandonò el puesto y tomó la fuga al través de una pica. Se le persiguió sin embargo largo trecho, se le mataron algunos hombres, se tomaron quatro cajas de guerra, 65 fusiles, 33 reses y 20 bestias, y el mismo Guzman debió su salvacion á la lentitud con que nuestra caballeria hubo de atravesar el Rio por un paso invadeable. El General avisa que al tiempo de su regreso para Barcelona se habian presentado ya cinco dispersos de Guzman con sus fusiles.

Tàctica auxiliar de la Ley marcial de Morillo. Calabozo 16 de Setiembre de 1820—Señor D. Calisto de Armas.—*Guenape.*—Por los partes de V. mi querido Armas, dirigidos al comandante de Orituco, D. Josè de la Torre he visto las ocurrencias que han acaecido por la Provincia de Barcelona. No puede V. figurarse la satisfaccion que me ha causado y me causará en adelante el ver tan fidedignas noticias que ellas solas me han cerciorado de cuanto ha ocurrido é igualmente S. E. à quien he recomendado este servicio el mismo que espero harà en adelante dando parte de quanto pueda por aquella parte,

Los Armas en todos tiempos han dado lustre à los habitantes de la Provincia de Barcelona por su fidelidad, ahora mas que nunca debe mantenerse en este heroismo, ni las seducciones que los enemigos procuran á los fieles Americanos ni las ventajas que han adquirido en aquella Provincia á causa de no haber Xefes, y tropas que hayan sabido mantener los derechos sagrados que la nacion les habia confiado, y débiles se han dejado alucinar de una orda de pìcaros, ni aunque vea V. que los enemigos poseen alguna parte de las Provincias de Venezuela nada de esto debe arredrar à V. en teniendo noticias que la Division de vanguardia al mando del Brigadier Morales existe cuenten por segura la redencion de todas las Provincias. En esta fecha la Division consta de 5000 hombres capaces de batir à toda la Repùblica, y alistandose hasta 12000 al mismo tiempo que estoy tomando medidas para ir en persona al Llano-alto, à concluir lo mas pronto con los miserables que han tenido el atrevimiento de introducirse hasta Barcelona, y desgraciados de los débiles que voluntariamente hayan tomado partido con los enemigos.

En fin V. no ignora que amo à todos Vds. y manteniendose como hasta aqui à toda costa darà todos los partes exâctos de lo que ocurra al Comandante Militar de Orituco. Igualmente verà si los de Guaribe ù otros que se hallen descarriados puede con su exemplo reducirlos, ù que se desengañen de los ofrecimientos falsos de los enemigos, y hacerles conocer lo útil que es el Gobierno de la Monarquia Española.

A sus hermanos que tengan està por de ellos, y que se acuerden de la amistad que siempre les he profesado la que serà eterna premiando los servicios que en esta época hagan à favor de las armas nacionales.

Deseo lo pase V. bien, y quemande en cuanto guste à su muy apasionado amigo y Brigadier Q. B. S. M.—*Francisco Tomás Morales.*

RESULTADO.

Señor D. Tomás Morales.—Guanape 30 de Setiembre de 1820.—Muy Señor mio: Acabo de recibir la de V. de 16 del corriente á consequencia de los partes dirigidos por mí al Pueblo de Onoto á D. José de la Torre.

No hallo voces con que manifestar á V. lo que padece mi corazon quando me acuerdo he seguido por algun tiempo un sistema de Gobierno que solo trata de destruir el Continente Americano. Me he comprometido á defender mi Patria en compañia de mis hermanos y vecindario, y todos, todos nos hemos propuesto hacerle la guerra á todo el que se declare enemigo de mi Nacion.

No hay duda que en todos tiempos las armas del Rey han adquirido nombre; perb conozca V. no lo han sido ellas sino las *heróicas hazañas* de Puy, Calzada, Yañes, Zuazola, Vd., Boves y últimamente quantos Españoles han mandado nuestro pais, que su cuna ha sido igual á su educacion, pues solo han acostumbrado el exercicio mecánico y ratero para proporcionarse el alimento. ¡O quanto debe V. á la revolucion! á los Americanos, á mi el primero, que con nuestras vidas é intereses lo hemos colocado en ese puesto. Hay á mas de esto otro motivo muy poderoso que V. puede alegarme para haber conseguido hacerse Brigadier de los Exércitos del Rey Fernando, este es el haber desolado nuestro pais de modo que esto solo ha bastado para que el nombre de V. y Boves sea conocido en él por uno de los primeros ladrones, asesinos é incendiarios, y esta fama se ha esparcido hasta por las Colonias extrangeras.

Me participa que mientras su Division exista con V. á la cabeza será bastante para destruir la República entera. No dudo lo seran sus intenciones; pero no lo acreditan sus marchas ni su acostumbrado valor, pues en tantos tiempos que ha estado casi abandonado el Llano-alto de Carácas, y el Exercito de V. pereciendo de hambre no ha tenido el necesario para proporcionarle el alimento, solo por temor del Exército del Señor General Paez. Y ¿compone á caso éste la quarta parte de las tropas de la República? ¡Vaya! permítame V. que le diga que son *bandadronadas Españolas*.

V. me manifiesta en su carta que dentro de pocos dias marcha con una Division de doce mil hombres á destruir todo el Americano que fuese enemigo del Rey, su carta me la hace de Calabozo, y despues me han informado se ha marchado para la Villa-de-Cura. Yo no he tenido la menor duda en creerlo, por que para mantener doce mil hombres se necesita estar cerca de los Valles-de-Aragua, aunque creo le es mas molesto para proporcionarle al Exército la carne; y tambien creo no pensará V. poner en practica la marcha al Llano alto de Carácas, pues se nos retira para la Villa-de-Cura.

Me han informado que el General Morillo tiene un Exército en Valencia de veinte y seis mil hombres, y no he tenido la menor duda en creerlo motivado á que siendo V. General de Brigada manda doce mil.

Extraño mucho él que á pesar de los continuos partes del Coronel Arana de que se halla perseguido por una Division de la República, no le hayan auxiliado con alguna tropa de los doce mil hombres que manda V., motivo que lo ha expuesto á embarcarse en la Laguna de Tacarigua, y marcharse sin saber el destino que lleva; solo si nos han informado que los ganados que quitó este Señor para la tropa los redujo á moneda: pregúntele V. con que fin lo habrá hecho.

Creo sabrá V. que los Pueblos, Valle de la Pascua, Tucupio, Potrero, Onoto, Clarines, Piritù, Aragua, Guaripe, Guanabe, Uchire y Cupira, convencidos de la justicia que han tenido los Americanos para hacer la guerra al Gobierno Español se han levantado en masa: y unidos al Exército de la República, buscan con ansia su enemigo para destruirlo, si V. ha metido en cuenta los hombres que encierran estos Pueblos, rebajelos del total y mande á quien B. S. M.—*Calixto V. de Armas.*

COSTA DEL SUR.

Hemos visto en Carta de 9 último, que la Fragata de Guerra Española tomada por el Vice-Almirante *Lord Cochrane* es la *Esmeralda* de 44. cañones, de cuya tripulacion murieron 160 hombres, quedando prisioneros el resto hasta 400: Entre otras cosas tenia á su bordo 12000. ps. El Lord fué herido levemente en una pierna: esta fragata fué sacada á viva *fuerza* del *Callao* por debajo de las baterias y Esquadra enemiga.

Dice la misma carta, que las fragatas Españolas *Prueba* y *Venganza* salieron del Callao, al parecer, en viage para España.

DEPARTAMENTO DE QUITO.

Extractamos las detalladas noticias, que ha dado en Cali el Señor Eusevio Borrero, Oficial de la antigüa República, que habiendo sido hecho prisionero en la Campaña de 1812 ha permanecido en Quito, y de allí ha escapado en Noviembre último, verificando su tránsito por Guayaquil. Dice, que todas las fuerzas de que pudo disponer Aymerich en la Provincia de Quito al saber los sucesos de Guayaquil, fueron 800 hombres los quales se diseminaron á guarnecer varios puntos: la opinion por la Libertad en aquellos Pueblos toca en frenesi: dos mil paysanos mal armados conducidos por el Patriota Orellano se presentaron en el Egido de Quito, luego que se supo la revolucion de Guayaquil; pero nada pudieron lograr por la falta de armamentos: el 11 de Noviembre fueron sorprendidos los destacamentos que tenia el Enemigo en Tacunga, Ambato, y Rio-bamba: El Teniente Coronel D. Nicolas Lopez, el Capitan Don José Maria Gil, los Tenientes Ugalde, Mora, y Delgado con otros Oficiales del Exército del Rey se pasaron al partido de los Independientes, y estan trabajando activamente contra los Enemigos: Don Jorge Ricaurte Corregidor de Ambato antes tan decidido por la causa de España fué de los primeros, que proclamó la libertad de su Patria: Calzada iba para Cuenca en calidad de preso, y sabiendo su revolucion, regresaba á Quito; en el Pueblo de Machachi fue sorprendido, y pudo salvarse por la sagacidad de su asistente, permaneciendo actualmente en Otabalo reducido á arresto. A los Oficiales Letamendi, y Urdaneta, que eran antes del partido del Rey, se les ha hecho Coroneles con motivo de la parte, que tuvieron en la revolucion de Guayaquil. En esta Plaza hay una opinion bien decidida y universal por la libertad, de manera que es imposible que puedan retornarse á la antigüa servidumbre. De Cauca se ha recibido el siguiente oficio.

" Capitanía General de Cuenca. = Las circunstancias, que ocupan á este Gobierno me privan de la satisfaccion de oficiar directamente al Exmo. Señor Bolivar comunicandole el plausible suceso, que ahora comunico á V.S. por lo que puede importar al progreso de las armas de la República en esas Provincias. Luego que tomé el mando de esta Provincia invité á las limitrófes á seguir nuestro exemplo; y hasta hoy lo han seguido los Corregimientos de Alausi, Guaranda, Rio-bamba, Ambato, y Tacunga, lo que debe influir en conmover á Quito. Espero, que en Loxa, y Zaruma se haya practicado lo mismo. Generalisado el sistema de Independencia en toda la parte de la antigüa Presidencia de Quito, y provistas estas Provincias, con Parques abundantes, trato de que á todo trance se forme una buena Expedicion para concurrir á la rendicion de Lima, si antes no se verificase. = Dios guarde á V. S. muchos años. = Cuenca Noviembre 18 de 1820. = 1.° de su Independencia. = *José María Vasquez de Noboa.* = Señor Don N. Santander, Segundo General del Exército Libertador de Santafé.

El mismo Señor Noboa en Oficio de 7 de Noviembre, dice á S.E. el Vice-Presidente que en los dias 3, y 4 de aquel mes sucedió la transformacion de Cuenca en los términos, que aparece en seguida.

" Capitanía General Independiente de Cuenca. = Considerando, que servirán de grande satisfaccion á V.S. los heroicos esfuerzos de esta Provincia hasta conseguir su Independencia de la Peninsula, me apresuro á comunicarla á V.S. = Los dias 3 y 4 del corriente fueron los de la mayor ignominia para los agentes del despotismo; en ellos vieron, que al valor nada se resiste, y convencidos de la impotencia de sus armas, y de que la sangre de los Patriotas derramada por ellos infructuosamente solo servia para electrisar á los que se habian decidido por la noble empresa de recobrar los derechos usurpados á sus mayores, se decidieron mal de su grado á la entrega del Quartel, y á que reynase el órden, la union y alegria que forman el carácter de los Patriotas.

Hacer respetar del visir de Quito estas insignias deprimidas por mas de 300 años es el anhelo de los Ciudadanos que tengo el honor de mandar, cuya union al sistema, que V.S protege hará efectiva la gloria de la Patria, que reconoce tantos heroes, quantos hijos abriga en su seno. = Dios guarde &c.

☞ ¡¡¡Y se querra todavia persuadir, que la generosidad de los Pueblos Americanos en Colombia no está decidida por la Independencia de España ?? ??!

REPRESENTACION.

Exmo. Señor.= Tengo el sentimiento de no haberme anticipado á manifestar á V. E la indignacion con que los Oficiales y soldados del Batallon Albion hemos visto el negro procedimiento de la Legion Irlandesa.* Abandonar la causa de la Independencia por falta de comodidades, es debilidad muy vergonsosa en un soldado Europeo; pero felizmente ha sido atacado el crímen de estos facciosos con la reprobacion general de todos los Ingleses que actualmente luchamos por la Libertad de Colombia. Con esto acabarán ellos la magnitud de su vicio, y llevarán sobre si la doble ignominia de haber disgustado á sus Compatriotas, y de aprender, en vez de enseñar moderacion y sufrimiento en una República naciente.

Esta es la expresion de los Oficiales, y Soldados que tengo el honor de mandar, y aunque V. E. conoce muy bien nuestros servicios, repetimos no obstante todas las protestas de adhesion á que dá lugar el hecho reprobado, añadiendo que ninguna privacion nos hará faltar á nuestros compromet imientos, ni desistir por consiguiente de la lucha en que nos hemos empeñado voluntarios.=Dios guarde á V. E. muchos años Popayan 26 de Diciembre de 1820=Exmo. Sor.=El Comandante del Batallon de Albion *John Macklntosh*.= Exmo. Sor. Vice-Presidente de Cundinamarca.

DESPEDIDA DE MORILLO.

Soldados.

El Rey se ha dignado concederme el relevo de vuestro mando, y yó parto para la España Europea quédando á vuestra cabeza el Mariscal de Campo Don Miguel de La-Torre.

Despues de muchos años de estar con vosotros y de sér testigo de vuestro valor en los combates, y de vuestra constancia en los sufrimientos, siento en tan cruel, pero necesaria separacion todo el dolor, que debe aumentar la admiracion de tantas virtudes. Conmigo vá vuestra heroyca memoria: conmigo la gratitud á trabajos y victorias que habeis padecido y conseguido por mi honor, por mi fortuna, y mi gloria: conmigo el ancia inestimable de ver recompensadas vuestras tareas por un Gobierno cuya divisa son la justicia, y la munificencia. Vosotros, algun dia os acordareis con placer de que no os engaño.

Soldados: La Guerra de Venezuela debe ser terminada para siempre, el genio de la discordia, que la ha desolado por diez años, se aparta de sus comarcas lleno de espanto: las primeras bases de esta suspirada paz están puestas: el Xefe del Gobierno disidente el General Don Simon Bolivar, ha concurrido á ponerlas: poco resta que hacer: lo mas esta hecho; y es en estas afortunadas circunstancias en que vuelvo al centro de la Nacion Española á decirla lo que sois, lo que valen vuestras virtudes, y de lo que son dignos vuestros sacrificios. Ella, el Rey, vuestros compañeros de armas, los simples particulares, todos oirán de mis lábios la gloriosa historia del Exército Expedicionario de Costa-Firme.

Yo parto seguro de que al volvér vuestros ojos al General, que me sucede se presenten con él á vuestra memoria las llanuras de la Hogasa, y de Coxede y las Colinas de Ortiz. Allí vistels su valor, como en todas partes sus virtudes militares. Es aquel cuya honradez os es tan conocida: se el que siempre ha existido á vuestro lado: el que jamas ha merecido, sino vuestro aprecio. Este recuerdo me basta.

Soldados: un inmenso Oceano vá á separarme de vosotros; pero en qualquiera parte á donde la suerte me conduzca, allí estará siempre conmigo el Exército de Costa-Firme. Sed siempre lo que habeis sido: vuestra disciplina; y ni mis esfuerzos por vuestra recompensa, y fortuna serán injustos. Quartel General de Barquisimeto 2 de Diciembre de 1820. = *Morillo.*

* En Rio Hacha

CUNDINAMARCA.

Anunciamos al Público, que se estan trabajando los estados, y noticias de las erogaciones que en este año han hecho las Provincias de Cundinamarca por su Independencia: el estado de la Hacienda Nacional, providencias gubernativas, &c. Podrán quedar satisfechos los Pueblos al ver, que sus sacrificios han tenido el solo objeto de salvarse del poder extrangero; que todos los ramos de Hacienda han subido en sus productos: que ha habido economia, regularidad y zelo en la administracion, y que todos los empleados han procurado llenar fielmente sus destinos y sus deberes. Como puede tardar la impresion de estos documentos, nos anticipamos á prevenir la opinion de los patriotas Pueblos de Cundinamarca.

CÓDIGO CRIMINAL DE LA SEÑORA DE LA VELA VERDE, POR EL QUAL HAN SIDO JUZGADOS CINCO MILLONES Y TRECIENTOS MIL INDIVIDUOS.

Instruccion del Sr. D. Francisco Valdès, Arzobispo de Sevilla, hecha por su propia autoridad, sin aprobacion de las Cortes ni del Rey, mandada observar en todos los Tribunales del Santo Oficio.

Luego que se forme el sumario podràn los Inquisidores prender al reo; y solo en el caso de discordia se consultarà al Consejo de la Suprema.

La prision se ejecutarà siempre con el seqüestro de bienes, y solo se darán los alimentos mas precisos á la muger é hijos, si no tuviesen edad para trabajar.

Se colocarán los reos en prisiones separadas, y no se les permitirá que sean visitados de sus padres, mugeres hijos, parientes y amigos.

El Abogado y el Confesor necesitarán licencia especial del Santo Tribunal para visitar los reos, y el primero no podrá nunca entrar sin ser acompañado de un Inquisidor.

Se les tomará declaracion siempre con juramento, y se les preguntarán los por menores de su genealogia, enlaces, y el quando, donde y con quien se han confesado.

Se tendrá el mayor cuydado en que los reos no sepan el estado de sus causas, y no se les dirá el motivo de su arresto hasta la publicacion de las probanzas.

El Fiscal deberá acusarlos generalmente de heregia aun quando sus crimenes fuesen otros. Debe siempre persistir en lo primero para indagar lo segundo, y tratará de averiguar la vida que ha observado antes de entrar en prision.

El Fiscal concluirá siempre su acusacion diciendo: *Que si la intencion no está bien probada sea puesto el reo á question de tormento*; es solo de esta sentencia interlocutoria que se admite apelacion, en caso que los Inquisidores duden de la suficiencia de los motivos.

El tormento será siempre presidido por los Inquisidores y el Ordinario. Se ratificarán los testigos en presencia de dos personas Eclesiasticas honestas y cristianos viejos.

Se leerán las ratificaciones al reo quando convenga; pero se omitirá todo aquello que pueda dar ocasion á conocer los que le han acusado, y aunque el testigo deponga en primera persona se leerá al reo en tercera, diciendo: *Que vieron, oyeron, dijeron que trataba con cierta persona &c.*; sin embargo se pondrán tachas á la declaracion para dejar correr sin tino la imaginacion del procesado.

La infamia que resulta de los crimenes que son castigados por el Santo Tribunal será trascendental á los hijos de los que la sufren.

Los Calificadores nombrados por el Inquisidor general censurarán las proposiciones y escritos, y sobre esta censura ha de recaer la sentencia que el Inquisidor general mandará ejecutar.

Dada en Sevilla en Junio de 1561 por D. Francisco Valdès, Inquisidor general y Arzobispo de Sevilla.

Españoles: Este es aquel Tribunal que de nadie dependia, que juzgaba á los Reyes, y desobedecia á los Pontifices; que en la obscuridad de la noche arrancaba al esposo del lado de su consorte, al padre de los brazos

[illegible] cetes de la compañía de sus padres [illegible] de volverlos á ver, sin que pudiesen contribuir á la defensa de su causa, y sin que hubiese medio de convencerse que la verdad y la justicia exigian su castigo. Este es aquel Oficio que llamaban Santo, y que decian haber sido establecido para honra y gloria de Dios, aunque se prestase á los caprichos de un voluptuoso favorito, y permitiese se colocara su imagen impura al lado de la Sacratísima Efigie de Jesu-Cristo en la Iglesia de S. Juan de Dios de esta Corte; es el mismo Tribunal que quitó la vida á dos mil y quinientos Eclesiásticos y Seculares por el crimen de *heregía* de no haber votado en favor de Felipe II para que se le coronase Rey de Portugal; es en fin la Santa y patriótica Inquisicion que en Mayo de 1808 dirigió á todos los Tribunales de Provincia una circular, en la que, despues de injuriar al heroyco vecindario de Madrid por la gloriosa insurreccion del memorable dia dos de Mayo llamandole sedicioso y rebelde, elogiaba sobremanera la disciplina y generosa comportacion de las tropas Francesas.

Comparemos pues el sistema judicial del Tribunal de la Fè con los principios razonables y caritativos de todas las sociedades y para ser justos en nuestro juicio desentendamonos los partidarios de la libertad moderada del derecho que nos concede la naturaleza á solicitar ser juzgados por leyes sabias y no por el capricho de un solo hombre; y los amantes de la opresion olvidense de que fueron dueños de los bienes y vidas de sus semejantes, y del beneficio que les resultó de esta injusta prerrogativa: entonces nos convenceremos de que el Tribunal de la Inquisicion era opuesto á la libertad individual, á la prosperidad del Estado y al espiritu del Evangelio, y que solo en el sagrado Código de nuestras leyes Constitucionales puede encontrarse el remedio de tantos males, con tal que no permitamos que se viole ningunos de sus articulos.

Estas reflexiones y muchas mas no se han ocultado ni se ocultan á los enemigos del sistema actual; ellos no se oponen á la execucion de las nuevas instituciones, sino á la reforma de los viejos abusos, que tanto convenian á sus egoistas maximas. Asi mi principal objeto ha sido el de publicar el horroroso sistema de la negra Inquisicion para inteligencia y conocimiento de los que lo ignoraban, y que puedan compararle con las ventajosas leyes que de hoy en adelante nos han de gobernar, prometiendo á los incrédulos presentarles documentos autenticos de todo quanto publico.

☞ Este rasgo se ha tomado de un papel impreso en Madrid y reimpreso en Cadiz, lo mismo que la *Oracion Fúnebre* publicada en el número anterior.

ESPAÑA.

Real Decreto de 7 de Mayo de 1820.

" Solicito siempre mi paternal corezon en procurar todos los medios que se dirijan al bien general del Estado y puedan influir en el aumento de su poblacion, notablemente disminuida, en especial desde la última guerra desoladora; y anhelando tambien por que los institutos regulares lleguen al grado de perfeccion debida y sean los claustros el asilo de la virtud, y no de la imprevision; he venido en resolver, de acuerdo con la Junta Provisional, que se suspenda toda profesion en las Comunidades Religiosas hasta la reunion de las Córtes convocadas; y prohibo al mismo tiempo que puedan vender, permutar ni enagenar de modo alguno, qualquier finca que les pertenezca, dando, como doy, por núlas las que se hayan hecho desde el dia 9 de Marzo último, en que juré la Constitucion política de la Monarquía. = Tendréislo entendido y dispondreis lo correspondiente á su puntual cumplimiento. " = Está Rubricado.

Articulo tomado del Universal Observador Español, Diario que se publica en Madrid.

GOBIERNO.

Sobre la Real órden de 7 de Mayo.

En el Universal anterior se insertó la Real órden del 7, en que se ordena, de acuerdo con la Junta provisional, que se suspenda toda profesion en las comunidades Religiosas hasta la reunion de las Córtes; y les prohibe vender, permutar ni enagenar de modo alguno qualquiera finca que les pertenezca; dándose por nulas las que se hayan hecho desde el 9 de Marzo, en que el Rey juró la Constitucion. Para la primera parte de esta sábia resolucion se indican dos razones fecundísimas de reflexiones sólidas: la primera es la despoblacion del Reyno, á la que con otras causas concurre poderosamente el excesivo número de personas Religiosas, destinadas á perpetuo celibato, y arrancadas de la agricultura, las artes y la produccion: la segunda causa es el deseo de que tengan la perfeccion debida los institutos religiosos, para que no abracen esta austera profesion personas jóvenes sin reflexion ni previo conocimiento de su rigorosa disciplina. En la segunda parte de la Real órden se prohibe á los regulares la enagenacion de sus bienes, y se declaran nulas las que hayan hecho desde 9 de Marzo. La opinion divulgada de que debiera hacerse algunas reformas en el demasiado número de Comunidades Religiosas, y las órdenes expedidas para facilitar las secularizaciones, habrán sin duda inducido á algunos Conventos la precaucion de enagenar algunos bienes: tal determinacion, llena de imprudente y culpable malicia, seria ademas en fraude de los derechos de la Nacion: los bienes que poseen los regulares han sido desmembrados de la masa general del estado por donaciones piadosas ú otros títulos lucrativos, con el objeto de la manutencion de estos institutos, los quales si se disolviesen en todo ó en parte por extincion de la órden, ó por alguna reforma parcial, los bienes deben volver á la masa comun de donde fueron segregados; y por ningun título pueden aprovecharse los individuos, á quienes correspondia solamente el usufructo durante la institucion ó comunidad. Por esta razon las enagenaciones hechas despues que se ha visto el ánimo decidido de S.M. á cooperar con las Córtes sobre las reformas que exige el bien de la Nacion, y desde que se comenzó á publicar en los periódicos y en todas las conversaciones la utilidad y justicia de la reforma de los regulares, son maliciosas y contrarias á los intereses del Erario Público, en el caso de verificarse alguna reforma.

Nadie que tenga nociones del derecho canónico dudará que corresponde á la Autoridad Real la policía exterior de la Iglesia, y que sin tocarse con lo que sea privativo de la potestad Episcopal ó Pontificia, puede poner impedimento y limitaciones para la entrada y profesion en las órdenes Religiosas, disminuir ó reducir el número de Conventos, y tambien no permitirlos en el estado, si lo tuviese por conveniente; pues asi como no pudieron establecerse sin la aprobacion Real, y sin el consentimiento y beneplácito de los Pueblos, del mismo modo hay derecho para revocar esta graciosa concesion, sin mezclarse en su fundacion ni en la extincion de la órden.

El Rey ha tenido la laudable moderacion de dar esta órden limitada hasta la reunion próxima de las Córtes, de cuya ilustracion es de esperar no solo que adopten estas medidas previas con que S.M. demuestra cada dia su sincéra adhesion á la Constitucion, sino que se tratará á lo menos de que los claustros, reducidos á un número proporcionado á la poblacion, sean, como dice la Real órden, *el asilo de la virtud, y no de la imprevision.*

Dentro de poco tiempo ofreceremos á la benévola lectura de los Señores Subscriptores lo que creamos necesario á la ampliacion de esta materia, tan interesante en todos sus aspectos, y tan digna de ser tratada con pulso y decoro por las consideraciones respetuosas que exige el Decreto Real, y los venerandos institutos regulares y monásticos.

El Señor Luis Aury ha solicitado ser admitido al servicio de Colombia con los Buques de su pertenencia, y S.E. el Libertador Presidente con fecha 11 del presente mes le ha negado su solicitud, previniendole salir con dichos Buques de nuestro territorio.

Imprenta del Estado por Nicomedes Lora.

Calle del Colegio del Rosario núm. 2.

COLOMBIA.

GAZETA DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTA,

CAPITAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE CUNDINAMARCA.

Domingo 18 *de Marzo de* 1821. = 11.°

ARTICULO COMUNICADO.

Expedicion de Carúpano.

Muchas veces se ha hablado de la heroica accion, que entre otras mil, inmortalizará al Hèroe de Colombia, á saber, la Expedicion reunida en los Cayos en 1816, y desembarcada en Carúpano. No todos conocen los pormenores de esta hazaña, ni saben las ocurrencias difíciles, que intervinieron en la reunion, embarco y operaciones de esta Expedicion. En 1816 fuè subyugada toda la Nueva-Granada, y en Venezuela no quedaron sino pequeñas partidas de guerrilla en las Provincias de Cumaná, Barcelona, y Guayana. La verdadera fuerza, y la única, que quedaba, fuè la de Casanare á que se reunieron en la Provincia de Barinas muchos descontentos del Gobierno Español. El enemigo poseia un inmenso pays, abundante de recursos, y en el qual existia un Exército numeroso, vencedor, y aguerrido. En tal estado, concibió el General Bolivar el agigantado proyecto de libertar á su Patria, y sin tener otros medios, ni otros recursos, que su genio, convida á sus Compatriotas á reunirse en los Cayos, y encuentra en el Sor. Brion una generosidad de que necesitaba: no alcansaron á 300 hombres los que reunió, y entre este puñado de valientes vino la discordia á dividir los ánimos, y á reducir el proyecto al estado de nulidad. El General Bolivar todo lo superò, y por fin partió con su Expedicion á Margarita, batió en el tránsito una Division de la Esquadra enemiga, aseguró la suerte de la Isla insurreccionada anticipadamente contra el poder Español, y verificó el desembarco en Carúpano.

No podia menos, que burlarse el enemigo de un proyecto semejante, y que no habria cabido en otra cabeza, que en la del General Bolivar. Pretender con menos de 300 hombres arrojar del pais á 20 mil soldados del Rey, que lo poseian con alguna tranquilidad, era el colmo del delirio. Pero el resultado desmintió este cálculo, y acreditó, que al genio audàs, y emprendedor de Bolivar nada se resiste, y nada se opone. De la ocupacion de Carupano, resultó la Expedicion de Ocumare, que aunque en su origen tubo un mal suceso, despues brilló atravesando un pais dilatado rodeado de enemigos, y venciendo en las jornadas de Quebrada honda, Alacrán, y Juncál las tres Divisiones de Quero, Lopes, y Morales. De aqui resultò el paso del Orinoco, el bloqueo de Guayana, la rendicion de esta Plaza, y la adquisicion de una Provincia, que tanto tanto ha valido á la causa de Colombia. Entre tanto, las fuerzas del Apure vencian al enemigo en el Yagüal, Apurito, y Mucuritas.

De este resumen debe deducir qualquiera, que la Expedicion de Carúpano es el origen de nuestro bien, y actual prosperidad, y que el General Bolivar autor, y executor del proyecto, empesó aqui á hechar nuevos y sólidos fundamentos para esta República. En honor, pues, de Cundinamarca deben publicarse los nombres de los Cundinamarqueses, que ayudaron á formar esa brillante Expedicion, los quales vengaban lejos de su Patria los males que ella estaba sufriendo.

Sor. Dr. Francisco Zea.	Otro José Martines.
Coronel Francisco Veles.	Otro José María Flores.
Otro José Ucrós.	Otro Juan Baza.
Teniente Coronel José Montes.	Sargento Mor. Juan Muñoz.
Capitan Joaquin Camero	Otro Manuel Martines.
Otro-Francisco Martines	Otro José Martines.
Otro-Pedro Romero.	Otro-F. Baza.
Otro-Manuel Gonzalez.	Otro-F. Velandia.
Otro-Manuel Romero.	Subteniente Simon Antune.
Teniente Miguel Girardot.	Ciudadano Gabriel Piñeres.
Otro-N. Machuca.	Cabo 1.° F. Barrera.
Otro-Sebastian Cuesta.	Otro-Leocadio Azevedo.
Otro-Ilario Ibarra.	Otro-Santos Orellano.
	Soldado F. Valencia.

Bogotà Marzo 8 de 1821. = *El amigo de la Justicia.*

Continúan las Observaciones sobre el Armisticio.

(Correo del Orinoco número 91. *)*

Hay otra ocurrencia bastante feliz, proporcionada por el Armisticio, y la Regularizacion de la guerra, que debe ser muy placentera y útil para Colombia. Hablo de la formacion del Congreso de la union en Cúcuta, indicado para el Enero próximo en la Ley Fundamental de ella, y para la que están convocados los Diputados y todo preparado. En el estado de guerra era peligrosa, por no decir imposible, su reunion en un lugar expuesto á incurciones y proyectos hostiles, que incapacitarian sus deliberaciones, y su mismo decoro: se impediria la importante concurrencia del Libertador Presidente para su apertura y comunicaciones, y en una palabra, no podria hacerse tanto como puede hacerse durante el Armisticio, bien sobre lo relativo á este, bien sobre las materias de union y otras. Todo está ahora allanado, todo lo completarà en sosiego la subiduria, y acaso sin lisongearnos con idèas de la imaginacion, los preliminares y bases de una paz sólida y útil à ambas naciones, serán allí zanjados.

Y, por fin, si teniendo Colombia un Gefe tan indubitablemente decidido por su gloria y prosperidad, ha creido necesario y conveniente el Armisticio, y el Tratado de la Regularizacion de la guerra, es el deber de los Pueblos sancionarlos con su voto y deferencia, y obrar constantes, sosteniendo las medidas del Gobernador del Estado, que lleva el timon de la nave, conoce los escóllos que ha de evitar, y la dirige al puerto. Confianza, Colombianos, confianza, y respeto por el Gobierno, y por los que colocados al frente de los negocios de la guerra y de la paz, enticnden sus intereses y los momentos de combatir ya en la arena, ya en el gabinete: cooperad para superar esta calma alarmante, que sino se sabe que traerà tràs sí, puede creerse, que siendo superada, la nave serà salva.

Hablando una palabra sobre el Tratado de la Regularizacion de la guerra, ¿quien no bendicirá la bondad del Cielo, contemplando el momento en que se puso tèrmino á la desolacion, que ha yermado nuestra tierra, que habia abierto la fosa de nuestra generacion, y habia despedazado los vínculos consoladores de la naturaleza? ¿Quièn se atreverà ya á romper ese muro, ese monumento de gloria para ambos pueblos, que al fin se han reconocido y respetado? ¿quièn no verá con gozo ese triunfo de las pasiones desenfrenadas, y esa noble restitucion de los derechos de la inocencia, y de la justicia? Queden para la historia y la posteridad, los justos encomios por los autores de una negociacion tan honesta, como beneficiosa. Yo no hallo voces con que expresar mi alborozo por el bien que se ha hecho á la humanidad, y dejo para otra oportu-

nidad discurrir sobre este acto, que no ha estado exènto de impugnaciones.

Por lo que à mi toca, publico á la faz del Universo, que mi alma y mi corazon se han ensanchado tanto por hechos tan sublimes, cuanto que creo haberse ganado dos campañas tan brillantes, como si se viese rescatado el resto de Venezuela. Con la circunstancia de que venciendose reciprocamente los contendientes, los pueblos pueden (reuniendose) lograr los opimos frutos de ese convenio; preparando y executando Colombia las medidas que dicten la energia y la politica.

En fin, Colombianos, el nuevo cuadro no puede penetrarse de un golpe: lo cubre una cortina que apènas deja ver una pequeña parte de su fondo. Yo he dicho algo de él, y el tiempo irá corriendo el velo; observèmoslo con detencion y cuidado: que pudiendo, yo seguiré emitiendo mis reflexiones, como lo hago ahora con tanto gusto como respeto.=UN OBSERVADOR.

COLOMBIA.

ANIVERSARIO DE LA REPUBLICA.

(Correo del Orinoco, Núm. 91.)

El 25 del corriente, consagrado à solemnizar el mas grandioso acontecimiento de la Hisotoria Americana, ha sido un dia de aplausos, de júbilo, y de gloria. Venezuela recordará perpetuamente la época feliz en que la Amistad enlazó y confundió sus destinos con los de la ilustre Cundinamarca. Una mútua simpatia depurada en el crisol de la adversidad, un ódio profundo à la tiranía, una misma causa, un interés comun, fueron los sentimientos que inspiraron y decidieron esa union fraternal, que incorporando à ambos Pueblos en una sola República, ofrece à las demas Naciones un espectáculo digno de su afecto y de su admiracion. Plegue al Cielo, que los miembros de esta inmensa y poderosa familia jamás permitan arder en sus pechos otras pasiones que el santo amor de la Libertad, y una viva emulacion por los sacrificios heróicos: que sus virtudes sean las columnas del magnífico edificio que acaban de levantar, y que Colombia, sostenida sobre tan sólidas bases, pueda desafiar en duracion al Tiempo mismo.

La memoria de este festivo dia nos conduce tambien à otras agradables consideraciones. Volemos un instante arrebatados en las alas de la imaginacion à las inmortales llanuras de Boyacá: allí verèmos al magnánimo BOLIVAR, guiando à la victoria las huestes Venezolanas y Granadinas, fijando irrevocablemente el destino de la Patria, y echando en fin los primeros cimientos de la Union que celebramos. Su nombre, pues, y el de los demas guerreros que le acompañaron, sean siempre pronunciados con entusiásmo por nuestros lábios, miéntras un soplo de vida los mueva, y que las mas remotas generaciones se glorien de repetir: *En Boyacà nació Colombia.*

Contribuyó à aumentar el regocijo la publicacion verificada en los dias anteriores, del Armisticio y Regularizacion de la guerra, de suerte que por todas partes se presentaban motivos para las mas cordiales congratulaciones. La Capital de Guayana, lugar privilegiado, donde los Representantes de la Nacion tuvieron la dicha de sancionar y proclamar la Ley Fundamental, ha procurado distinguirse en su celebridad, de un modo sencillo, aunque no con aquel aparato de pompa y magnificencia, que en mejores tiempos sabrá ostentar. Tres noches consecutivas de iluminacion general, bailes, màscaras, diversiones de todas especies durante el dia, votos y aclamaciones à S. E. el LIBERTADOR PRESIDENTE, á la República, à nuestros hermanos de Cundinamárca; salvas de artillería al declinar la tarde de la vispera, y al despuntar la siguiente mañana, tales fueron algunas de sus demostraciones. S. E. el Vice-Presidente de Venezuela, à la hora acostumbrada, acompañado de todas las Autoridades Civiles y Militares, Oficialidad, y demas Corporaciones, se dirigió à la Santa Iglesia Catedral donde se celebró una solemne funcion, y hubo una gran concurrencia. Desde la casa de S. E. hasta la Iglesia cubrian la carrera las Tropas de la guarnicion, formadas en dos alas, que luego se cerraron para hacer en el *Te Deum* varias descargas de fusilería, à que correspondian las de artillería. Concluido el acto, y regresado S. E. en los mismos terminos, recibió en su casa los cinceros parabienes del séquito que le habia acompañado, y de otros muchos Ciudadanos.

Pero no solo en esta Capital, sino en todos los demas Pueblos de la Provincia se han esmerado en festejar del mejor modo la memoria aniversaria de este dia. En prueba de esto no citarémos mas que à Barrancas, cuyo Comandante Teniente-Coronel Florencio Luzon dispuso sin contar con las demas diversiones, una representacion dragmática, en que se figuraban los tres grandes Departamentos de Colombia por otras tantas jóvenes vestidas de Indias, y sosteniendo entre todas la Ley Fundamental.

ESPAÑA.

EN UNO DE LOS PERIODICOS DE MADRID INTITULADO EL *PLEBEYO* NUM. 1.° SE LEE EL SIGUIENTE RASGO:

Sunt autem optimæ curæ, de salute patriæ. Cic. . . .

Un formidable arsenal, una numerosa artillería, y un Exército bien disciplinado son el objeto que hasta aqui ocupó la atencion de los Reyes de la Europa. Todo cuanto se ha exâminado en su presencia se ha dirigido à la solucion de este problema: *hallar el medio de matar mayor número de hombres en menos tiempo posible.* Han propuesto y dado premios al descubrimiento de la mas sanguinaria evolucion; han señalado sueldo doble al artillero que halló el secreto de cargar el cañon en solo cuatro segundos: empero no han pensado en premiar al labrador, á este hombre, á cuyo sudor deben su existencia y quanto lisongea su orgullo. La exâctitud en esta ciencia destruidora prueba cuan viciado está el sistema universal de los Gobiernos.

Que un principe que quiere conservarse debe aprender á no ser justo, sino cuando lo exija la necesidad; que debe guardar cuidadosamente sus bienes particulares y prodigar los del público; que no quede obligado al cumplimiento de la promesa, sino cuando pueda hacer o sin pérdida de sus ventajas; que no debe ser virtuoso, sino aparentarlo; que debe mostrar que es humano, fiel, justo y religioso, pero que debe aprender à ser lo contrario; que debe inclinar su espiritu segun sople el viento de la fortuna, sin alejarse del bien mientras pueda, pero sin hacer escrúpulo de cometer el mal cuando tenga ocasion de hacerlo impunemente, y le sea provechoso: he aquí, querida Patria, *la política de los Reyes absolutos*; he aquí el alma y los sentimientos de ese corto número de hombres, que en el dia intentan despedazar y devorar à la Europa. . . . . Si, à la misma Europa à quien deben el ser, la vida y el poder; ese poder que sostiene la iniquidad, el dolo, la fuerza armada, ó mas bien la ignorancia y la supersticion de los que creen que les fué dado por el mismo Dios, que odia, detesta y condena los delitos. ¡Ah! Vosotras Ciudades y Provincias destruidas; vosotros Reynos desvastados, tú, virtud santa, virtud hollada y perseguida; vosotras sacro-santas Leyes dictadas por el Eterno, anonadadas y confundidas por el crimen; vosotros filósofos y sabios de la tierra despreciados, haerrojados al calabozo y à muerte. . . . Tú, sombra querida y respetable de tantos miles de hombres sacrificados à la ambicion y furor insano de los despotas y tiranos, salid, salid por un momento de la tumba fria en que os sepultó el abuso del poder y la perfidia atroz è indigna de esos hombres; salid y confundid la sed de sangre que respiran: decidles que el mundo no es de ellos, sino que ellos son del mundo; decidles que los hombres han llegado à ser dignos de serlo, y que si vosotros espirasteis à su furia, su poder va à espirar tambien al fuerte impulso de la luz santa que vive y brilla en el corazon de vuestros hijos; decidles en fin, que ni Dios ni la naturaleza les dieron autoridad para atormentar á los mortales; que no es la fuerza la que constituye el legitimo poder, sino la virtud, la humanidad, la justicia y una ciega obediencia à la ley, ante cuyo santuario deben acatarse los primeros.

El hombre justo se horroriza, arredra, y desfallece

al contemplar este triste y mísero espectáculo, causado por la tiranía, por la codicia y ferocidad de los príncipes soberanos, ó mas bien antropófagos nacidos para oprimir á la humanidad para beber su mas preciosa sangre y para esterminarla....

Nosotros no tememos ni vuestro poder, cuyo origen conocemos, ni esa rabia con que despedazais al mundo, derramando en él la sed el hambre, la guerra, la desolacion, el dolor, la muerte.... No, el hombre de bien no teme, y defiende impávido con las armas de la razon su dignidad y los derechos inherentes á su ser; desprecia el puñal y la cicuta, aun á pesar de los tiranos á su Patria, y muere por ella con la serenidad del justo, seguro de que la posteridad, siempre recta, recordará con reconocimiento sus virtudes. Desapareció el tenebroso tiempo en que los hombres creian ver en un Rey á todo un Dios; que su autoridad no tenia límites, que podia disponer segun le acomodase de su fortuna, de su honor y de su vida, y hacerles de hombres, bestias. La ilustracion se ha difundido; los déspotas y sus sátelites tiemblan, la humanidad ha llegado á conocerse y á persuadirse de que los Reyes por que lo sean no dejan de ser hombres. Sí, Conciudadanos, son hombres que nacen, que sienten las pasiones de la naturaleza, el placer, la enfermedad y la muerte: y si alguna cosa existe en ellos diferente de vosotros, es el poder que les habeis dado y su método de vida... *los Reyes fueron creados por los hombres; los hombres pueden por lo mismo deponerlos, y colocar en su lugar al que mas convenga al interés de la sociedad en general.* Abrid el libro de la esperiencia, y hallareis en él confirmada esta verdad indestrutible.

No se crea que intentamos sembrar el espíritu de democrácia; conocemos los escollos á que podria conducirnos, y la clase de pueblo y de costumbres que exige. Muy lejos estamos de semejante pensamiento; lo que deseamos con la Patria es una Monarquía moderada constitucional (*) y en el caso de inclinarse hácia alguno de los estremos, que sea mas bien á favor de la democrácia que no al de la tiranía. Creemos que esta proposicion será para todos un axioma luminoso en los principios inmutables de la razon y de la equidad natural. Si la Nacion quiere tener un Rey, tambien quiere poner límites á su autoridad, y precaver los abusos de ella. La libertad é igualdad civil de los Españoles deben ser dos bases sólidas é inviolables de su Constitucion, separando de la prerrogativa Real, lo que deje en ella un medio facil para hacer nula ó de poca influencia la voluntad del pueblo y la garantía de sus derechos y de su verdadera gloria.

Repetimos que no es nuestro ánimo invitar á nuestros Conciudadanos á abrazar una clase de Gobierno que por su naturaleza y por la estencion de su suelo, no podria jamas llevarlos á la felicidad que anhelan, y por la que han hecho tantos y tan costosos sacrificios. Amamos mucho á nuestra Patria para que intentemos interrumpir la grandiosa marcha que ha empezado. Odiamos semejante linage de Gobierno con la misma fuerza que aborrecemos y detestamos al monárquico absoluto, por que ni están conformes con los votos y deseos de la Nacion entera, ni pueden darla la prosperidad que la promete el que ella y su Rey han establecido. Lo que intentamos sí, es hacer conocer á todos sus derechos, y convencerles en cuanto esté de nuestra parte, de que un noble y un plebeyo son dos hombres tan iguales en naturaleza como lo son ante la ley; que si algo los distingue es, volvemos á decir, el poder que la sociedad les dió, y la riqueza que bien ó mal adquirieron; pero que tanto á este como á aquel, todo hombre tiene derecho desde el momento en que nace; que Dios no impuso á los hombres el precepto de obedecer á los tiranos, y que el hacerlo, no solo sería infringir su Divina Ley, sino la de la naturaleza, que le manda conservarse á toda costa.

(*) Se está hablando de España, y este rasgo lo hemos publicado por su bellesa, juicio, y sabiduría—*El Editor de Bogotá.*

Continúa la Memoria correspondiente á los ramos de Hacienda y Guerra

Sabida la ocupacion del Rio Hacha, por la Esquadra del Almirante Brion, y tropas del Comandante General Montilla, se envió el correspondiente armamento al Gobernador de Mariquita para el batallon del Alto-Magdalena con orden de que se embarcase sin pérdida de tiempo al mando del Teniente Coronel Maza, quien combinando sus movimientos con los del Teniente Coronel Cordova que estaba operando por el Rio Cauca sobre Monpox, pondria estas fuerazas á su disposicion. La columna de Cordova desalojó de las bocas de Nechi á los enemigos que defendian esta importante posicion. Poco despues 40 hombres en Mojana destruyeron una columna triple, y se allanó la entrada en Mompox. Maza obtuvo otras ventajas en el Magdalena; Mompox fué ocupado al fin, obligando esta operacion á los Españoles á retirarse á la fuerte posicion de Tenerife. Reunido Cordova y Maza sin perder momento fueron atacadas y destruidas todas las fuerzas sutiles enemigas sin que quedase á los Españoles un buque en el Magdalena. Progresos tan rápidos fueron efecto de providencias bien meditadas, activas y oportunas, executadas con tino exáctitud y valor. Pasado el tiempo en que el Gobierno embriagado con los triunfos, dormia á la sombra de los laureles con que se cubrian las armas de la Libertad, las victorias en estos tiempos de actividad, la hacian redoblar. Nuevas providencias se dictan para que estos 2 batallones se elevasen á 800 Plazas cada uno; para que se formase otro en Mompox haciendo marchar al efecto 200 hombres de Antioquia; para que el batallon *Girardot* al mando del Teniente Coronel Ricaurte siguiese á reunirse al Exército de la Costa; para conducir á ese Exército y á la Esquadra, dinero, harinas, azucares, y otros artículos; y quantos fueron necesarios para sostenerlo, ponerlo en aptitud de executar las operaciones que le fueron confiadas, y en el pié brillante en que se encuentra.

V. E. dirigió las operaciones en el Magdalena hasta que despues del triunfo glorioso de Tenerife, se pusieron todas nuestras fuerzas á las órdenes del Comandante General Montilla, que habiendo desocupado á Rio-Hacha por motivos que no me toca recordar, se habia introducido con el Almirante por el Magdalena, ocupado varios pueblos, y franqueado la comunicacion con el interior. El Libertador siguió con la direccion de la guerra en esta parte hasta Noviembre, en que marchando al frente del Exército por las Provincias occidentales de Venezuela, cometió de nuevo á V.E. la direccion del Exército del Magdalena, y el arreglo de todos los ramos públicos. V. E. teniendo por principio las miras generales de S. E. y el estado de las operaciones en las Provincias de Cartagena y Santa Marta, dictó las providencias que parecian oportunas.

La actividad extraordinaria del Almirarte Brion, el tino, juicio, y energía del Comandante General Montilla dexaron á V. E. muy desembarazado en la direccion de la guerra. El desgraciado suceso de Turbaco ocurrido en 1.° de Setiembre se reparó, la opinion de los Pueblos de la Provincia de Cartagena subministró muchos medios, y V. E. freqüentemente hizo remisiones de dinero al Exército, y Esquadra para ayudar á poner en accion las tropas remitidas de las Provincias de Antioquia, y Mariquita, las que habia llevado el Coronel Lara de Cúcuta, Pamplona y el Socorro, y las que habia formado el General Montilla. Este Gefe atendió á poner en estado respetable el bloqueo de Cartagena, y á hacer marchar la Expedicion contra Sta.-Marta que confió al bravo Coronel Carreño: algunas dificultades se opusieron en la marcha de esta Expedicion; pero todas se allanáron con el valor de las tropas, y el tino del Gefe, y al fin despues del combate sangriento del 10 de Noviembre en la Ciénega en que los Batallones *Rifles* y *Girardot*, organizados en Antioquia, se distinguieron valerosamente, la Ciudad de Santa-Marta fué libertada el 11 y Cundinamarca ganó una nueva Provincia. Algunos pueblos de ella se habian alarmado contra los Independientes, y parecian resueltos á continuar en la obstinacion de luchar contra sus libertadores;

pero todos han ido deponiendo las armas, entregandolas al Coronel Narvaéz, que tuvo la Comicion de pacificarlos, y estàn ya reunidos al Gobierno de la Repùblica, habiendose logrado un suceso tan importante por medios suaves, à fuerza de buen trato y generosidad con los que se habian extraviado, guiados por su docilidad à las sugestiones del enemigo.

En Septiembre tuvo V. E. avisos del Gobierno de Chile de 7 de Agosto en que le informaba que el 15 saldria sin falta para el Perú el Exercito del General San-Martin, y la Esquadra del Lord Cochranne. Inmediatamente V. E. lo avisó al General del Exèrcito del Sur, y le previno, que estuviese preparado à marchar hàcia Pasto y Quito, luego que se le presentase una ocacion favorable al mejor exito de sus operaciones. El Gobernador de Cauca recibió órden de formar un nuevo batallon de reserva, y el de Neyba la de remitir al Cauca 300 reclutas.

En cricunstancias de haber llegado al puerto de la Buena-ventura un Comerciante extrangero despachado de Chile con seguros y conocimiento de nuestro Comisionado Muños con varios elementos de guerra suficientes, no solo para armar y equipar el Exército del Sur, sino para formar un gran Parque de reserva, se supo que la Provincia de Guayaquil habia proclamado su Independencia de España. El General Valdès contratò todos aquellos elementos á buenos precios, y con plazos còmodos, cuya contrata aprobó V. E, y en 2 de Noviembre avisó que iba à ponerse en marcha inmediatamente para Popayan y Pasto á aprovecharse de los ventajosos sucesos de Guayaquil.

El Gobierno contaba con que marchando inmediatamente el Exército del Sur á Pasto á tiempo que Cuenca tambien habia proclamado su Independencia, y que de Guayaquil se habia dirigido á Quito una Expedicion que reunió muchos pueblos á su partido, aquel Departamento quedaria libre en todo Diciembre, y la Repùblica habria extendido su territorio por todo aquel Pais A pesar de que en nuestro Exército se tuvieron freqüentes noticias de que los enemigos habian abandonado el Juanambú, y debilitado la guarnicion de Pasto, y de que nuestra fuerza parecia suficiente para marchar, y aprovechar la ocacion mas favorble, que se presentaba, no pudo moverse del Valle hasta el 2 de Diciembre por causa, dixo el General, de que las tropas carecian de vestuarios para emprender la Campaña. Popayan fuè nuevamente ocupado por nuestras armas sin oposicion, y el Exército continúo sus operaciones, apesar de las bajas que experimentó, sin que hasta hoy haya tenido el Gobierno aviso alguno del exito y resultado.

La columna del Chcó unida á las tropas de la Costa tuvo òrden de obrar bàxo la direccion del Coronel Cansino sobre los puntos mas convenientes, y hasta ahora se sabe solo la ocupacion del puerto de Esmeraldas en las inmediaciones de Quito, y es muy probable que Barbacoas sea tambien libertada, quedando por estas operaciones reintegrada al Gobierno Repùblicano casi toda la provincia de Popayan.

Equipado el Exercito del Sur, ha quedado un sobrante de elementos de guerra con que habilitar dos Exércitos de reserva. El Comisionado Muñoz llegó á la Buenaventura conduciendo el resto de los efectos militares, que habia conseguido à fuerza de zelo, y baxo el crèdito del Gobierno, habiendo consentido en dexar que el propietario vendiese en Guayaquil los que allí se necesitaban para asegurar mejor la Plaza y Provincia. El Coronel Cansino debe formar un gran Parque de reserva en el Cauca, y es de esperar de los conocimientos è interes de este Gefe que haga descansar á V. E en el particular, asi como lo verificó en el despacho y habilitacion del Comisionado Muñoz.

Vino tambien una Division de buques de guerra demasiado grande para el Pacifico respecto de las posesiones, que allí tenemos, y sobre su adquisicion quedan aun pendientes algunas dudas, que aclarará su dueño luego que llegue á esta Capital.

Quando iba à moverse el Exército reunido en Cucuta hàcia las provincias Occidentales de Venezuela, marchó de esta Capital à reunirsele el batallon Bogotà equipado perfectamente y en estado regular. Tambien siguieron del Socorro y de Tunja los batallones formados, equipados y organizados en aquellas Provincias bàxo la direccion inmediata de sus Gobernadores, á los quales V. E. auxilió en lo posible para cumplir este encargo. Nuevos depósitos mando V. E. formar en las provincias de Pamplona, Tunja, Socorro, y Bogotá, para reemplazar el Exército del Norte; en Mariquita y Antioquia para reemplazar el del Magdalena; y en Neyba y Cauca para el del Sur. Se formaron inmediatamente, y el depósito de Bogotà, siguió luego luego á Cùcuta equipado de todo: un tercer depòsito se hizo formar en esta Provincia el qual yà està runido, y se organiza y disciplina con teson, asi como se hace en las demas Provincia con los suyos respectivos,

Las milicias se han continuado organizando, è instruyendo: los pueblos se han disputado el honor de alistarse preferentemente, y se disputan tambien el de su disciplina. Los Gefes de estos Cuerpos han acudido con zelo, é interes à cumplir las órdenes del Gobierno, y à dar un caracter militar à hombres que miraban con terror y aversion el uniforme de soldado.

En 18 de Diciembre recibió V. E. las comunicaciones que acompañaban los tratados de armisticio, y de regularizacion, de guerra ajustados en Truxillo, y al siguiente dia los comunicò V. E à todos los Gefes de Provincias y de Divisiones, que le tocaba comunicar. Con el motivo de este armisticio V. E. ha renovado sus órdenes para aumentar los depósitos, redoblar las horas de su intruccion, y tener preparados todos los medios necesarios para decidir de un golpe la suerte de Colombia, si desgraciadamente se rompen las hostilidades, y quieren los enemigos entregarse à los resultados de una ó mas batallas.

(Se Continuará).

NAVEGACION DEL MAGDALENA.

El Gobernador Comandante General de Mariquita Coronel Francisco Urdaneta ha avisado en 5 del corriente que la grande seca del rio en estos últimos dias le ha proporcionado hacer menos peligrosa la navegacion destruyendo la principal piedra, que formaba el *salto de Onda*, que tantos riesgos ha presentado siempre al Comercio, y que ha logrado ya ver pasar con seguridad las embarcaciones. Igual operacion mandó executar en los pasos no menos pligrosos de *Pretèl* y *Guarumo*, y aunque por ahora no se pueda contar con que tales peligros hayan desaparecido absolutamente, al menos son ya menos ciertos, y seguros, y al Comercio se le han disminuido los riesgos. S. E. el Vice-Presidente ha manifestado al Gobernador Urdaneta el aprecio con que ha visto una medida de tanto influxo á la prosperidad de Cundinamarca, y á la particular de la Provincia de Mariquita, muy digna por sus servicios en esta época de las mejoras, é incremento necesarios á hacerla cambiar de suerte.

El 12 del corriente ha entrado en esta Capital el Exmo. Sor. Almirante de Colombia Luis Brion, à quien S. E el Vice-Presidente ha recibido con la distincion á que sus freqüentes, é importantes servicios le hacen acreedor. Del Pueblo de Bogotà habria recibido manifestaciones de su reconocimiento, sino se hubiera anticipado la hora anunciada para su entrada.

AVISOS OFICIALES.

S. E. el Libertador Presidente ha nombrado al Coronel Jacinto Lara Gobernador Comandante General de la vincia de Cartagena, y al Coronel Josè Maria Carreño la de Santa-Marta.

AVISO AL PUBLICO.

En la tienda del Ciudadano Rafael Flores Calle 1.ª del Comercio, se expenden las Boletas para la Lotería: allí podràn ocurrir los que quieran comprarlas.

Imprenta del Estado: por Nicomedes Lora.

J. D. Forsyth —

21

Augusta 24th May 1821.

Sir

I had the honor on the 8th December, advising you, that the Claims of the Baltimore Chesapeake Company, were yet unpaid, nor have I been able to obtain any thing from this Government since that time.

I have had the honor to spend three days with Gen Bolivar in Cucuta, about the middle of February. The Gen.l received me in the most friendly & polite manner possible, and treated me with the utmost frankness during my stay with him. He had been to St. Fe and was then on his return to the Army at Truxillio. His object in going to St. Fe had been to obtain from the Merchants of that City a loan of money for the Army, as he had found it almost impossible to keep his Armies together after the American without some money, & regular rations. He had succeeded in getting about

Don.l

John Quincy Adam

Secy of State

&c. &c. &c.

chant $100. ses in Doubloons, and 5000 suits of ready made Clothing & Blankets.

The President handed me, a letter approving of all the Contracts entered into in the U States by the Government Agent Mr. Torres, and has assured me, they shall be complied with the moment he has the means at his disposition.

The death of D.r Rocio, you must have reached you long since. The D.r died in the Town of Rosario de Cucuta 7.th March. His death has been much regretted by some few of his friends but not so generally as might have been supposed from the high situation he filled in the Country. The Politics of the D.r were not so liberal as had been generally supposed. He was a warm friend to the Independence of this Country, but strongly attached to the old System of things.

The Secty. of State, Zea, has gone to Spain, as Commissioner from this Govt. to treat with the Cortes, for its Independence But did not find from Conversations with the President that any hopes were entertained of his effecting any thing for the present.

I visited M.r Zea in March, and remained there eight days, at the Palacio of Government or residence of Gen.l M.r Ander. I was very agreeably disappointed on my arrival at the

City

city to find a Town containing upwards of 30 Thousand inhabitants enjoying (apparently) all the tranquility that it could possibly possess in time of peace, and if it had not been for the hurry & bustle of packing up, and sending off all kinds of Military Stores to the Armies one might have supposed that the Country enjoyed peace with all the World. During my stay in St.te Fe Admiral Boyle, and Suite arrived there from St.a Martha. The Admiral had quarrelled with Col. Montilla (about Command) and was in search of the President to prefer Charges against the Col. for disobeying his orders on Land, as his Subservient Officer. I had some Conversation with him, but finding he was not disposed to admit that anything was right, except what he himself did, & did urge very much some enquiries that otherwise should have made of him

Gen.l Valdez, formerly Commander of the Division destined against Quito, had Gen.l Orders to repair to Head Quarters, and arrived at St.te Fe 17.th March. The Gen.l brot. the news of the fate of Lima into the hands of Gen.l St. Martin, but nothing had been done of an Official nature, when I left St.te Fe on the 20.th March.

The Armistice was to cease on the

22nd

22nd April. a gentleman has a note addressed by the Lady of
Gen. Brion, dated 21st April in Savanna, but when
I passed the Head Quarters of Gen. Paez, on the 23rd
hostilities had not commenced, nor could Gen.
Paez move his Army from Achaguas
=ses the 10th inst.

The force that Gen. Bolivar will take
into the field with him on the present Campa-
=ign, is three Divisions, upwards of 12,000
troops, all well armed, and clothed; and in
=Consequence of the activity of the officers, in
general, during the Armistice, they are in
a higher state of discipline, than any troops
I have heretofore seen in this Country.

The possession of the Ports of Santa Martha
& Maracaybo on this side the Continent, and
of Guayaquil, & Buena Ventura, on the Pacific
has thrown a damp over the Royal Cause
generally, and cut them off from many kind
of Produce which they formerly rec.d through
those Channels, and has increased very much
=ch the Confusion of the Republic by the immense
Commerce of Santa Martha, & Guayaquil. This
circumstance, added to the absence of General
Morillo, and the want of confidence, and
Union among the Troops of the Royal Chief
Gen.l La Torre, has made an impression

here

here that there will be no more fighting in Venezuela, but that Caracas will be delivered up by Capitulation, and the Regulations to be observed in Conducting the War, as entered into by Generals Bolivar & Morillo, will it is thought Contribute much to produce this Capitulation

Gen.l Santn, has gone to the Seat of Government to fill the office of Vice President of Columbia, in Consequence of the death of Dr. Roscio, and absence of Dr. Lea. The Gen.l has returned from the prisons of Spain, a Violent enemy of the whole nation, and being a man of strong mind, and excellent talents, may yet much in fixing a Character to the new Republic.

Dr. Lea, was in Paris, the Last au.t rec.d from him, with his family. The D. has not been able to effect any thing in favour of his Government, and could not remain in London any longer, in Consequence of the Debenture Certificates drawn by him on this Govt. in favour of the Creditors in England, not having been Complied with by the Government here, when presented. The Dr. I fear, is in a bad way; for whatever his Political Creed might have been formerly, he is now decidedly opposed to a Republican System of

Government

Government and has recommended to the Govt. here that one of the Royal family of England be placed at the head of this Government. In a letter of a late date from the Dr to a friend of his / member of Congress, and of much influence / he says "Notwithstanding the alliance entered into by the European Powers, had among other objects, that of the prevention of Republican systems of Government, yet is now ascertained from a reputable source, and one that may be relied on, that Great Britain is ready & willing, to withdraw from the Alliance, and protect the Republic of Columbia, in case one of the Royal family of England should be placed at the head of the Government." I did not see the letter from which the foregoing extract was taken, but I believe it may be depended on as a correct translation — When Gen.l Bolivar was in Ajaure, in April he mentioned the subject to several persons and appeared to be very much vexed with the Dr who if he has such a project, had better keep it to himself

I have not heard from Col. Todd since he left Margarita — I understand he has gone to Santa Martha, if so, he will find it very difficult to get from there to Caracas

His

his only plan will be to return again to the
Port of Maracaybo, or go to Mompox, on
the Magdalena, and from there pass across
the Country to Cucuta, and as hostilities has
already commenced, it would be dangerous
for him to attempt to return via Maracay-
baybo, by the Magdalena, the rout will be very
fatiguing, and across a very unhealthy Country

We have not the least account of the in-
stallation of Congress, and from the very few
members assembled in Cucuta, when I passed
there, I am inclined to think they will not be
able to form a Congress before the close of the
present Campaign, as many of the members of
Congress are Military men, and now with the
Army, and cannot leave it at present

I have been invited by Gen. Bolivar
to come immediately to Caracas, should it
fall, to which place he shall remain in the
event of its Capture.

I addressed a short letter in March, to the
President of the United States, asking him for the
Consulship of Puerto Cavello, or Maracaybo
if it met his approbation, as I think I
have it in my power to render some ser-
vices to my Government in this Country, if
employed by the Govt. I pledge myself to dis-
charge the duties allotted to such employ-
ment

compliment with good faith & to the extent of
my abilities-

In leaving Cucuta I left a letter for Col.
Todd, advising him, in case the Congress should
not meet before the close of the Campaign
and Gen. Bolivar should enter Caracas, to come
to that place, as he would in that case,
find all the influential men of the Country
there, and being the only patriotick agent
in this Country, would have it in his power
to make, assisted by myself, very strong &
very friendly impressions in favr. of our
Government. If not contrary to his instructions
I have some reason to think the Colonel will
follow my advice, as I am confident he will
not be pleased with Cucuta.

Gen.l Paez, has placed under my care
his two sons, and a God son, & he sent to
the U. States and there placed at School, & I
shall them in the Endymion. I am truly pleas-
ed to find the leading men of the Country, who
alone have the means of educating their sons,
directing them to the end- it looks well-

I send you the defence of Gen.l Santander
the execution of 38 Spanish Officers, at his
own request also, a file of Mr. Papers up to
the day I left that place- and a file of

The

the "Correo del Orinoco" up to date.

Regretting you write excuse a long letter written in great haste, and abounding with orthographical errors. I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir,

Your most Ob.t Serv.t

J. D. Forsyth

Wright J. D.

Augusta, 24 May 1841 Read 6th

July.

Claim of the Baltimore Chesapeake

Company — Affairs of

South Carolina &c &c.

J. D. Forsyth — Special agent to Colombia

Augustura 14th June 1821. 27

Sir

I had the honor on the 23d Ult. to address Embassies, & to Convey at the same time a file of the Santa Fé Papers, as late as the "Correo del Orinoco" up to that date. On the 28th the first news of the occupation of Caracas by the troops under the Command of General Bermudez, on the 16th Ult. reached us, and I am obliged to say, this reluctantly, that the inhabitants of this City had scarcely ceased rejoicing at the happy tidings when we had a Courier bringing information of the retreat of Generals Bermudez & Sublette, from the Capital on the 26th Ult. This morning the Commandant General, of this Province received dispatches from Gen. Sublette, dated 28th Ult. at which time, nothing had transpired of any note after the 26th The details of the movements of Gen Bermudez after the 16th have also reached us — The Gen. marched from Caracas

to

Hon. Jno Quincy Adams Esq.

Secty of State

&c &c &c

on the 17th in detention of the Battles of Araya
and on the morning of the 18th Came up with
Brigadier Gen.l Correo near Victoria, and
gave him Battle which terminated in the en-
tire rout of Correo, & the Capture of the most
of his Baggage & Horses of every kind. Gen.l Tovar
formerly Governador of Caracas was made
prisoner, but escaped again on the 24th in the
evacuation of La Guayra. Gen.l Bermudez, Arbelo
and Arismendy are in a Small belliage at
Capilla three days march from Caracas
making preparations to attack that City again
immediately. We have not Rec.d any inform-
ation from Gen.l Bolivar since early in May
and no information from Gen.l Paez, since
he marched from Achaguas. I am not
able to say what the result of the present
Campaign will be, but I think that
Caracas will be once more occupied
by Gen.l Bermudez in a few days.

I have not heard from Carlisle
since I left there, nor any thing of Col.
Ford, since he left Margaritta. I
send the Cartel No of the Correo del Orinoco
and hope to have it in my power

find you more interesting information
in a few days. The despatch that
takes this is under weigh. I have thought
it agreeable you will pardon the
haste in which it has been written.

I have the honour to
be with the highest sentiments of respect

Yr. Ob.t Sert

J. D. Forsyth

Forsyth J. D.

Angostura - 14 June 1824

Recd 26th

affairs of the Spanish

Main.

Hon'ble
John Quincy Adams &c &c &c
Secy of State
Washington

S. D. Forsyth —

29

Recd 12 Nov.

Havana 24th Oct. 1821

Sir,

I have not had this honor since the 24th May last, as no direct opportunity presented from Augustura up to my departure from that City and if an opportunity had offered, the information we had from the interior, and from the Army was so vague to have Justified a Communication

I left Augustura on the 12th August & arrived here on the 21st in very delicate health. On the 22nd I waited on the Vice President Gen.l Santander, who gave me a detailed account of every Thing that had transpired in the City after the President had made his entry on the 28th June — And the Gen.l fearing that I had come to urge Payment of the Arms & Clothing introduced in Oct. last, anticipated me by relating to me the exact

Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams Esq.r

Sec.y of State &c &c

of the army, and the difficulty they had to obtain Cattoon, and Clothing for the English troops - and that the only payment he could make me on former claims was about £2.000 lb. of Country Tobacco, a very small proportion of which was the best Varinas so much sought after by the Holland Merchants - Just as I had the whole of this payment brought down to the Port of La Guayra, the Endymion arrived from N. York with another remission of Arms for this Government on a Contract of Mr Ogden, and Jacob Ider Esq. of Philadelphia but I regret to say the Markets were so very bad, that the Government would not receive them - They have been stored here subject to the orders of the Shippers, and at their risk, and the Endymion returns to the U States for new instructions -

This unfortunate Circumstance, and the Clamorous disposition of the Contractors for their money, will I think lessen all future Contracts in the U.S. for some time to come, for this Government cannot comply with their engagements - I thought differently before I came to this City

but

but I am obliged to change my opinion

I most sincerely regret having entered into any Agency for any one. There are so many interested and so many different opinions, that I have found it impossible without money, to stop their Clamours. If ever I have been so fortunate as to get a State payment, report generally made it double and if all interested in the thing stood for Collection, did not get a part I was immediately abused in the US States as every thing but a Gentleman. I shall in future be better as I have Mr. W. Lemmon of Baltimore to assist me, and take a part of the responsibility off me. but I fear it will be some years before the Joint operations of Mr Lemmon and myself can bring Mr Foster's Contracts to a close. Every revenue of the Govt being devoted to the maintainance of the Troops of the line and the Permanent And as yet not one man has presented himself who has a single Idea of Finance

Genl Bolivar left this on the 1st Inst for the Army. On the 12th Ult. he was in Maracaybo. And on the 25th in the

village

Settlement of Panama de cuenta. The Govt has been planning an Expedition against Panama, and on the 9th inst. the whole of the English Troops in this City was marched with some Brass Cannon to La Guayra and there embarked for the same destination.

Gen. Bolivar has dispatched from this a Courier to the Port of Guayaquil there to put in motion a force by sea against Panama, while he would send a strong Division by way of Porto Bello. But by the arrival of Southern mail at this place on the 20th Inst. Gen. Sentlett has rec'd dispatches from Gen. San Martin dated Head Quarters Lima 15 July informing the Government of Columbia of the fall of that City, and his willingness to co-operate with President Bolivar in any direction he might please to point out.

Enclosed you have a rough copy of the news from Lima. it has not yet been printed. Excuse the haste in which I send it.

The

The Congress are Still in Session in the Village of Rosario. They have framed a Constitution which has past the Second reading in the House, and I understand there is not a doubt it will pass on the Third reading. I have not been able to learn what form it has taken but the moment I can procure a Copy I will send it to the Department

Gen.l Bolivar has been unanimously Elected President of the Republic but I have not heard for what term of years. The rest of the Officers of Government remain as they have been for the last Six months

Gen.l La Torre remains in Puerto Cavello. Gen.l Morales has gone to the Island of Curacoa. And the Town and Forts of Cumana remain Still in the possession of the Royalists.

Gen.l Paez Commands the Siege of Puerto Cavello and Gen.l Bermudez is before Cumana.

For the last few days we have had some apprehensions of an intention to raise the Colored People in this

City with a view of effecting a Counter-Revolution - but the alarm has passed by, and it appears to have been nothing - yet the Government has much to fear from them, should they make another attempt -

Since I have arrived in this City I have found my House Expenses to bear very heavy on me indeed, as it is the only American House owned by the respectable People of the City, particularly the Officers of Government - I have therefore deemed to request the President to grant me a small annual Sum to take the burthen off of those heavy expenses in some way off me, as I am not able to support them - And as long as the Vice President remains under the impression I have some relation with the Department of State (though I have spoke him more than once there is none whatever) so long shall I have those enormous expenses and I am too poor to defray it out of my own Pocket - after two hundred Dollars would make the thing

Come

come easy on me, and the same social and friendly intercourse might be kept up between the Officers of Government and myself and you may assure the President that in a Country in a State of Revolution it is the only way to keep up and establish friendly feelings between this Country & the U. States. When there shall be established an Accredited Agent from the U. States in this Country then the necessity of this assistance would cease. I most sincerely hope the President will take what I have suggested into Consideration and comply with my request. It would be money well Employed, and the President may be assured his Confidence shall never be abused by me.

I rec'd a letter from Col. Todd dated St Thomas, on his way home. I have not answered it for the information which he requires I find difficult to procure.

Should any Arrangements be made this Session of Congress to send out Col. Todd again, or any other as Agent or Minister to this Country I should like to be attached in some way

may be the suit. as I flatter myself I could render some effective service to the foreign Dept, and to my Government which has been my desire for many years, and I shall ever devote from this early conviction -

The Enterprise will sail again for N. York for this Port - If the President will honor me with an answer - a letter addressed to Majr. Bryant Waveland N. York, will find a speedy conveyance

I must beg you to excuse the style and attention of this letter, for I have got out of bed, where I have been confined for Eight days with fever to forward you the information

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration of respect

Your Mr. Obt. Servt

J. D. Torrey

N.B. Just as I was about to close this a Courier from Cumana announces the Surrender of that City to Gen. Bermudez on the 26th inst. The Royal Troops have been embarked for Puerto Cabello -

EDWARD WYER

JANUARY 30, 1821

HAITI

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF ARMAMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Wyer, Edward

See Miscellaneous Letters

March 25	1923	Cadiz
April 12	"	Gibraltar
May 4	"	Gibraltar
May 9	"	"
May 18	"	"
May 13	"	"
May 30	"	"
June 18	"	"

Edward Wyer
7 february 1821.
Read 10th.

H. B. Ship Ontario
At Cape Henry Febru.y 7. 1821.

Sir,

The Pilot will take leave of us in a few moments with a good prospect of doing well. The Ontario is in prime order, and is a very superior ship of her class.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Edw.d Wyer
"

Hon.ble J. Q. Adams
&c. &c. &c
Washington

Edward Wyer, Port of Cape Haytien 27 feb. 1821.

3

Recd 22 March.

Tariff to Mr Barclay.

U. S. ship Ontario
Port of Cape Haytien
Febuary 27th 1821.

Sir,

We arrived here on the 24th Inst. after a passage of 17 days from Annapolis, - our crew all in good health and spirits.

I went on shore immediately, and found the inhabitants of the city in great commotion, as the populace was at that moment making an attack on the house of the civil Governor. The General in command with his troops prevented the intended distruction of the house attacked. The civil Governor was arrested. He with 4 or 5 other Officers of distinction were yesterday sent round to Port au Prince, there to await the judgement of President Boyer. Report says the Diadem of Christophe was this day found at the house of the civil Governor, also a large sum of money in gold.

During the last 3 or 4 days the City has been in a continual state of alarm so much so, that the white inhabitants

send their wifes, and children off to the ships every night
The American merchants have requested Capt. Mahoney to
remain with the Ontario for a few days, as they view
the presence of his ship of great importance to them,
and their property. Capt. M has agreed to remain for
2 or 3 days, after that proceed to Port au Prince, at which
place President Boyer is
Since the departure of the President from this place, the
great discontent has shown itself towards his Government
& in fact the people of this Island require such men
to command them, as Christophe was, in the early
part of his reign.
The finances of President Boyer are very good, as he
found [illegible] treasure at the death of Christophe, as such
I think he will be inclined to do his duty by us in
regard to our claims.
You can form some idea of the cost of printing in this
place, as I paid two Spanish dollars for the enclosed
Tariff.

I have the honor to be
with great respect Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Edw.d Wyer

Hon.ble
John Q. Adams
&c. &c. &c.
Washington.

Liberté, Egalité.

REPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

LOI

Qui Prohibe l'Introduction des Liqueurs Fortes dans la République et qui Etablit certains Droits d'Importation sur les Vins, Liqueurs Douces, Sucres Rafinés et autres Objets de fabriques Etrangères.

LA Chambre des Représentans des Communes réunie en majorité, après avoir pris lecture du projet de Loi adressé par le Président d'Hayti, tendant à prohiber la rentrée de toute espèce de Liqueurs Fortes, et à augmenter les Droits d'importation sur les objets qui peuvent nuire à la vente de ceux qui se fabrique dans le pays, s'est convaincue qu'il est instant d'arrêter tout ce qui peut porter atteinte aux intérêts des Citoyens du pays, et que la disposition de la Loi du 3 Avril 1819, sur la prohibition des Liqueurs Fortes, n'a pas été assez étendue, puisqu'en partie, le bas prix auquel se vendaient les Liqueurs Fortes importées de l'étranger a été une des causes qui ont paralisé la marche de la Culture des Cannes à sucre.

Considérant que les Citoyens qui servent leur Patrie et qui ont une industrie, doivent trouver protection dans les Lois qui les régissent, et qu'il n'est pas juste que le bas prix des objets avec lesquels ils se procurent l'existence, tombe dans un mépris qui arrête leur travail.

La Chambre, après les trois lectures voulues par l'article 82 de la

SAVOIR:

	gourdes,	cens.
Armoires d'acajou, chaque,	12	
dito de chêne, dito.	8	
dito de sap, dito.	6	
Bazannes, chaque douzaine,	1	50
Bottes à revers et unies, la paire,	2	
dito communes, dito.	1	
Bottines et demies Bottes, dito.	1	
Bureaux d'acajou, chaque,	12	
dito de chêne, dito.	8	
dito de sap, dito.	6	
Cuirs tannés, le côté,	1	50
Habits faits de drap fin, chaque,	8	
dito communs, dito.	6	
dito divers, pour enfant, dito.	4	
Lits d'acajou, dito.	8	
dito de chêne, dito.	6	
dito de sap, dito.	4	
Liqueurs douces, par chaque douzaine de bouteille,	3	
dito en paniers de deux flacons, le panier,		75
Souliers fins, pour hommes, la douzaine,	4	
dito communs, dito.	2	
dito de troupes, dito.	1	
dito en taffetas et brodés, pour femmes, la douzaine,	4	
dito de cuirs noirs, dito.	2	
dito d'enfans, dito.	2	
Sucres rafinés en pains, la livre,		45
Vins rouge ou blanc, la barrique,	10	
dito en caisse, les douze bouteilles,	1	50

10. Sont rapportés les articles du Tarif de la Loi sur les Douanes du 3 Avril 1819, qui sont contraire aux dispositions de la présente Loi.

Liberté, Egalité.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

LOI

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LA Chambre des Représentans des Communes réunie en majorité, après avoir pris lecture du projet de Loi adressé par le Président d'Hayti, tendant à prohiber la rentrée de toute espèce de Liqueurs Fortes, et à augmenter les Droits d'importation sur les objets qui peuvent nuire à la vente de ceux qui se fabrique dans le pays, s'est convaincue qu'il est instant d'arrêter tout ce qui peut porter atteinte aux intérêts des Citoyens du pays, et que la disposition de la Loi du 3 Avril 1819, sur la prohibition des Liqueurs Fortes, n'a pas été assez étendue, puisqu'en partie, le bas prix auquel se vendaient les Liqueurs Fortes importées de l'étranger a été une des causes qui ont paralisé la marche de la Culture des Cannes à sucre.

Considérant que les Citoyens qui servent leur Patrie et qui ont une industrie, doivent trouver protection dans les Lois qui les régissent, et qu'il n'est pas juste que le bas prix des objets avec lesquels ils se procurent l'existence, tombe dans un mépris qui arrête leur travail.

La Chambre, après les trois lectures voulues par l'article 82 de la

Constitution, et après avoir entendu le rapport de son Comité des Finances, adopte le projet de Loi ainsi qu'il suit :

ARTICLE PREMIER.

L'introduction des Eaux-de-Vie, Wiski, Rhum, Tafia, Genièvre et généralement de toutes Liqueurs fortes provenant des manufactures étrangères, est défendue dans la République, sous peine de confiscation, moitié au profit de celui qui déclarera la contravention et moitié au profit de l'Etat.

2. Cependant le Genièvre qui arrivera de l'Etranger dans les six premiers mois de la publication de la présente Loi, ne sera confiscable qu'à l'expiration de ce tems. A cet effet, le Capitaine de tout bâtiment arrivant dans le pays pendant ce délai, et ayant à son bord du Genièvre, sera tenu d'en faire la déclaration au Directeur de la Douane du lieu où il aura pris mouillage, et ce Fonctionnaire, assisté du Ministère public et de l'Administrateur, constatera la quantité de Genièvre qui sera trouvée à bord du bâtiment et en fera le dépôt au Magasin de l'Etat, pour être exportée à l'étranger par le même bâtiment ; en conséquence, il n'y a point de droits à prélever sur cet objet.

Après le délai de six mois expirés, le Genièvre trouvé à bord des bâtimens arrivans sera confiscable en vertu de l'article Ier.

3. Les Liqueurs fortes importées, en contravention à la présente Loi, qui seront saisies, ne pourront, sous aucun prétexte, être consommées dans le pays. Le Secrétaire-d'Etat au Département des Finances sera chargé, sous sa responsabilité, de les faire exporter à l'étranger, et l'Administration tiendra compte, en numéraire, à qui de droit, de la portion qui lui reviendra dans l'objet de la saisie.

4. Le délai d'un an est accordé pour la consommation du Genièvre qui se trouvera dans le pays au moment de la publication de la présente Loi ; passé ce temps, le Genièvre trouvé invendu dans les magasins ou boutiques sera déposé dans les magasins de l'Etat, et l'Adminis-

tration prendra des mesures pour, sans nuire aux droits des propriétaires, le faire exporter à l'étranger.

5. En conséquence, aussitôt la promulgation de la présente Loi, les Administrateurs, les Préposés d'Administration, ensemble avec le Ministère public et les Juges de Paix, seront chargés de constater la quantité de Genièvre existante dans les magasins et boutiques, et en feront leur rapport au Secrétaire-d'Etat.

6. Toutes les personnes chez lesquelles il sera trouvé du Genièvre, seront tenues, à partir de la date de la promulgation de la présente Loi, jusqu'à l'expiration du délai d'un an, accordé par l'article 4, de produire tous les quinze jours au Conseil des Notables de leur Commune, un état de la quantité de Genièvre qui aura été consommée dans leurs magasins ou boutiques pendant la quinzaine expirée; cet état sera expédié, vingt-quatre heures après sa réception, par le Conseil de Notables au Secrétaire-d'Etat.

7. L'Administration fera constater, toutes les fois qu'elle le jugera à propos, pendant la durée du délai d'un an, accordé en vertu de l'art. 4, la quantité de Genièvre existante dans les magasins et boutiques, afin de s'assurer si celle qui a été consommée et qui reste invendue s'accorde avec la quantité trouvée à la vérification faite en vertu de l'art 5; dans le cas où le restant invendu excéderait la quantité qui devrait rester, cet excédant sera confisqué au profit de l'Etat.

8. Si, malgré la présente Loi, on parvenait à introduire des Liqueurs fortes dans le pays, l'Autorité Civile ou Militaire pourra les faire saisir et confisquer, n'importe où elles se trouveront, et les fera loger dans les magasins de l'Etat, pour être exportées à l'étranger; et tout Capitaine, sur le bâtiment duquel on trouvera ces Liqueurs, sera arrêté et condamné, par le Tribunal Civil, à une amende fixée à raison de *cinq* gourdes par chaque galon de Liqueurs fortes.

9. Les Vins rouge et blanc, les Liqueurs douces, les Sucres rafinés, les Bois de Lits, Bureaux, Habits faits, Cuirs tannés, Basannes, Bottes, Bottines et Souliers payeront dorénavant les droits suivans, pour leur entrée dans ce pays;

SAVOIR:

	gourdes,	cens.
Armoires d'acajou, chaque,	12	
dito de chêne, dito.	8	
dito de sap, dito.	6	
Bazannes, chaque douzaine,	1	50
Bottes à revers et unies, la paire,	2	
dito communes, dito.	1	
Bottines et demies Bottes, dito.	1	
Bureaux d'acajou, chaque,	12	
dito de chêne, dito.	8	
dito de sap, dito.	6	
Cuirs tannés, le côté,	1	50
Habits faits de drap fin, chaque,	8	
dito communs, dito.	6	
dito divers, pour enfant, dito.	4	
Lits d'acajou, dito.	8	
dito de chêne, dito.	6	
dito de sap, dito.	4	
Liqueurs douces, par chaque douzaine de bouteille,	3	
dito en paniers de deux flacons, le panier,		75
Souliers fins, pour hommes, la douzaine,	4	
dito communs, dito.	2	
dito de troupes, dito.	1	
dito en taffetas et brodés, pour femmes, la douzaine,	4	
dito de cuirs noirs, dito.	2	
dito d'enfans, dito.	2	
Sucres rafinés en pains, la livre,		45
Vins rouge ou blanc, la barrique,	10	
dito en caisse, les douze bouteilles,	1	50

10. Sont rapportés les articles du Tarif de la Loi sur les Douanes du 3 Avril 1819, qui sont contraire aux dispositions de la présente Loi.

Donné, en Chambre des Représentans des Communes, au Port-au-Prince, le 8 Mai 1820, an 17 de l'indépendance.

Le Président de la Chambre,

Signé, Pre. ANDRÉ.

Les Secrétaires, (Signés,) Pre. LUNDY et LEFRANC.

» LE SENAT décrète l'acceptation de la Loi qui prohibe l'introduction des Liqueurs fortes dans la République, et qui établit certains droits d'importations sur les Vins, Liqueurs douces, Sucres rafinés et autres objets de fabrique étrangères; laquelle sera, dans les vingt-quatre heures, expédiée au Président d'Hayti, pour avoir son exécution suivant le mode établi par la Constitution ».

A la Maison Nationale, au Port-au-Prince, le 5 Juin 1820, an 17e.

Le Président du Sénat,

PANAYOTY.

AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE,

LE PRESIDENT D'HAYTI ordonne que la Loi ci-dessus du Corps Législatif soit revêtue du Sceau de la République, publiée et exécutée.

Au Port-au-Prince, le 6 Juin 1820, an 17 de l'indépendance.

BOYER.

Par le Président,

Le Secrétaire-Général,

B. INGINAC.

Réimprimé, AU CAP-HAYTIEN, de l'Imprimerie du Gouvernement.

In Ed: Wyers 8b 27 feb: 1821

Edward Wyer — Port au Prince 12 March 1821.

8

Recd 9th April.

Port au Prince
March 12 1821.

Sir,

I have the honor to address you on the 4th inst. from the City of Cape Haitien, since which, the Ontario has arrived at this Place, and will sail for Gibraltar on the 14th inst.

President Boyer is here. I was yesterday introduced to his Excellency by our Consul Mr Armstrong, on a visit with Captain Chauncey of the Ontario. The President received us with great urbanity, and offered us every attention, which was in his Power to show. President Boyer has appointed this day at 4 o'clock P.M. to receive me on business. I feign flatter myself my mission will not be attended with success, as the President declares every act of Hostility on the

not of a Rebel
One or two days I shall write out for
by her, I shall be able to write you fully
on the subject of my mission
favorability was evident at the Cap
previous to the departure of the Ontario. I sha
ever believe the presence of the Ontario, had a
great influence on the Blacks in bringing ab
such a happy event.
By the enclosed document you will be able to se
the summary, made, in case against General
Richard, and the three other officers, who had
conspired against the Republic, at the Cape
on the 29th Ult. They were arrested, and put
to this place, and shot on the 4th Inst
this morning. I saw two Columns of the Rebel
army shot, having taken up arms against the
Republic.
Our Consul Mr Hemming is very much respect
ed in this place, and is a very excellent
young man. He shares very high with the
President Boyer.

With great respect, I have
the honor to be
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Edw.d Wyer

Honorable
John L. Adams
&c &c &c.

In Ed: Wyse Letter of 12 March 1821.

Sec. Wyse 10

PIÈCES OFFICIELLES.

Procédures et Jugemens des nommés Jean-Pierre RICHARD, *Général de Division, Commandant la ville du Cap-Haïtien,* Henry CIMETIÈRE, *Colonel,* BELZUNCE, *Commandant et* DOMINIQUE, *Capitaine, convaincus du crime de haute trahison.*

Au Port-au-Prince, le 4 Mars 1821, an 18 de l'Indépendance.

A. Gédéon, *Sénateur, Général de Division, Commandant l'Arrondissement de Léogane,*

A Son Excellence le Président d'Haïti.

Président,

Je vous remets, sous l'enveloppe de la présente, l'expédition du Jugement que le Conseil spécial militaire, que j'ai présidé, en exécution de vos ordres, a prononcé contre l'ex-Général Jean-Pierre Richard.

Le Conseil non-seulement a vu, par les charges portées contre Richard, que ce perturbateur du repos public avait travaillé l'esprit de quelques militaires pour les exciter à la désobéissance et à la révolte contre le Gouvernement, mais il s'est convaincu, par une déclaration faite par ce traître, lors de son interrogatoire qu'il a signé, qu'il avait demandé nuitamment des fusils à un étranger nommé Hoffmann, domicilié au Cap-Haïtien, à l'effet d'armer clandestinement ceux qu'il croyait à sa dévotion. Le refus de cet étranger de livrer ces armes pendant la nuit, a sans doute empêché

l'effusion du sang haïtien au Cap ; mais la démarche de Richard n'a pas moins donné à son crime le caractère le plus odieux.

Agréez, Président, l'expression du dévouement avec lequel je suis

Votre très-humble et très-obéissant serviteur,

GÉDÉON.

Liberté, Egalité.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE.

Ce samedi, trois mars, mil huit-cent vingt-un, dix-huitième année de l'Indépendance.

Le Conseil spécial militaire, convoqué extraordinairement au Port-au-Prince, par la lettre de Son Exc. le Président d'Haïti, en date du 1er. Mars courant, à l'effet de juger le Général de Division Jean-Pierre Richard, et composé ainsi qu'il suit ; savoir :

Antoine Gédéon, Général de Division, Commandant l'Arrondissement de Léogane, Président du Conseil;

Quoyé Larivière, Général de Brigade, Commandant l'Arrondissement de la Grande Rivière du Nord, Vice-Président du Conseil ;

Jean-Jacques St.-Victor Poël, Colonel, Adjudant de place du Port-au-Prince, Grand Voyer, Juge ;

Jean-Louis Confident, Lieutenant-Colonel au 11e. régiment, Juge ;

Joseph Henterloux, Lieutenant-Colonel des grenadiers de la Garde à pied du Président d'Haïti, Juge;

Louis Michel, Capitaine au 10e. Régiment, Juge;

Philippe Doisan, Capitaine au 11e. Régiment, Juge;

Eustache Frémont, Colonel, Aide-de-Camp de Son Exc. le Président d'Haïti, Commissaire des Guerres, faisant fonction de Rapporteur;

Assisté du Citoyen Jules Solime Milscent, Greffier du

Tribunal de Cassation de la République, faisant fonction de Greffier ;

A rendu le Jugement suivant :

Vu, 1°. La lettre de Son Exc. le Président d'Haïti, datée du premier du présent mois, qui déclare le Général Jean-Pierre Richard traître à la Patrie et le renvoie devant le Conseil pour être jugé conformément au Code Pénal militaire, et sans désemparer ;

2°. Deux lettres du Général de Division Magny, Commandant l'Arrondissement du Cap-Haïtien, qui dénonce le Général Jean-Pierre Richard, comme le Chef d'une Conspiration tendante à renverser le Gouvernement ; l'une sous la date du 29 Décembre dernier, l'autre datée du 25 Février de la présente année.

Après la lecture donnée par le Greffier de l'interrogatoire subi par l'accusé, à qui il a été donné lecture des charges portées contre lui ;

Le Citoyen Laborde, défenseur, nommé d'office par le Conseil pour défendre l'accusé, entendu en sa plaidoirie ;

Ouï les conclusions du Rapporteur :

Le Conseil déclare, à la majorité absolue, Jean-Pierre Richard, ex-Général de Division, coupable du crime de trahison contre l'Etat, prévu par l'article deux de l'Arrêté du Sénat en date du 27 Février mil huit-cent-sept, et le condamne à la peine de mort pour être exécuté dans le délai de la Loi.

Prononcé au Port-au-Prince, les jour, mois et an que dessus.

Le Commandant Confident a déclaré ne savoir signer.

Doisan, Louis Michel, Heuterloux, J.-J. Victor Poel, Q. Larivière, Gédéon, E. Frémont, J. S. Milscent.

Liberté, Egalité.

REPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE.

Aujourd'hui, quatrième jour du mois de Mars, mil-huit-cent-vingt-un, dix-huitième année de l'Indépendance d'Haïti, à neuf heures du matin ;

La Commission militaire permanente, convoquée en vertu de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, Sous-Chef de l'Etat-Major-Général de l'armée, sous la date du deux courant, adressée au Colonel Aquerre, Président de la susdite Commission, qui lui remet les pièces à charge contre le Colonel Henry Cimetière, prévenu du crime de trahison et complice de la Conspiration tramée contre le Gouvernement par le Général Jean-Pierre Richard, Commandant la place du Cap-Haïtien, à l'effet de le juger et connaître, en vertu de la Loi, si le crime à lui imputé est avéré ;

Ladite Commission, composée du Colonel Aquerre, Président, du Commandant Bouzy, Vice-Président, du Capitaine Frédéric, du Lieutenant Fayette, du Sous-Lieutenant Déroulette, du Sergent Cadet Dujuy et du Caporal Frêne Bogé, Juges, en présence du Capitaine Regnier, Quartier-Maître au 11e. Régiment, remplissant les fonctions de Rapporteur ;

1°. Après avoir donné lecture à l'accusé de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, sus-relatée, par laquelle il remet les pièces à charge et convoque la susdite Commission ;

2°. La lettre du Général de Division Magny, Commandant l'Arrondissement du Cap-Haïtien ;

3°. Lecture de son interrogatoire, en date du deux courant ;

4°. Lecture de l'article 2 de la Loi du vingt-sept Février mil-huit-cent-sept, ainsi conçu :

« L'espionnage, la trahison, l'assassinat et meurtre quelconque ; l'incendie, la revolte à main armée, le viol, lorsqu'il aura occasionné la mort de la personne violée : tous les délits ci-dessus portés emporteront peine de mort. »

Après avoir entendu l'Accusé dans ses moyens de défense;
Ouï les conclusions du Capitaine Rapporteur;
La Commission militaire permanente, condamne, à l'unanimité, le nommé Henry Cimetière, Colonel, à la peine de mort, au vœu de l'article du Code Pénal, sus-cité, et être le présent Jugement exécuté dans toute sa forme et teneur.

Fait clos et jugé sans désemparer, au Port-au-Prince, les jour, mois et an que dessus.

Le Caporal Frêne Bogé a déclaré ne savoir signer.

CADET DUPUY, DEROULETTE, FAYETTE, P. FREDERIC, BOUZY, AQUERRE, REGNIER, RASTEAU fils, Greffier.

Liberté, Egalité.

REPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE.

Aujourd'hui, quatrième jour du mois de Mars, mil-huit-cent-vingt-un, dix-huitième année de l'Indépendance d'Haïti, à neuf heures du matin;

La Commission militaire permanente, convoquée en vertu de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, Sous-Chef de l'Etat-Major-Général de l'armée, sous la date du deux courant, adressée au Colonel Aquerre, Président de la susdite Commission, qui lui remet les pièces à charge contre le Commandant Belzunce, prévenu du crime de trahison et complice de la Conspiration tramée contre le Gouvernement par le Général Jean-Pierre Richard, Commandant la place du Cap-Haïtien, à l'effet de le juger et connaître, en vertu de la Loi, si le crime à lui imputé est avéré;

Ladite Commission, composée du Colonel Aquerre, Président, du Commandant Bouzy, Vice-Président, du Capitaine Frédéric, du Lieutenant Fayette, du Sous-Lieutenant Déroulette, du Sergent Cadet Dupuy et du Caporal Frêne Bogé, Juges, en présence du Capitaine Régnier, Quartier-Maître au 11e. Régiment, remplissant les fonctions de Rapporteur;

1°. Après avoir donné lecture à l'accusé de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, sus-relatée, par laquelle il remet les pièces à charge et convoque la susdite Commission;

2°. La lettre du Général de Brigade Marc Servant, Commandant l'Arrondissement de St.-Marc;

3°. Lecture de son interrogatoire, en date du deux courant;

4°. Lecture de l'article 2 de la Loi du vingt-sept Février mil-huit-cent-sept, ainsi conçu:

« L'espionnage, la trahison, l'assassinat et meutre quelconque; l'incendie, la révolte à main armée, le viol, lorsqu'il aura occasionné la mort de la personne violée: tous les délits ci-dessus emporteront peine de mort. »

Après avoir entendu l'Accusé dans ses moyens de défense;

Ouï les conclusions du Capitaine Rapporteur;

La Commission militaire permanente, condamne, à l'unanimité, le nommé Belzunce, Commandant, à la peine de mort, au vœu de l'article du Code Pénal, sus-cité, et être le présent Jugement exécuté dans toute sa forme et teneur.

Fait clos et jugé sans désemparer, au Port-au-Prince, les jour, mois et an que dessus.

Le Caporal Frêne Bogé a déclaré ne savoir signer.

CADET DUPUY, DEROULETTE, FAYETTE, P. FREDERIC, BOUZY, AQUERRE, REGNIER, RASTEAU fils, Greffier.

Liberté, Egalité.

REPUBLIQUE D'HAYTI.

AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE.

Aujourd'hui, quatrième jour du mois de Mars, mil-huit-cent-vingt-un, dix-huitième année de l'Indépendance d'Haïti, à neuf heures du matin;

La Commission militaire permanente, convoquée en vertu de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, Sous-Chef de l'Etat-Major-Général de l'armée, sous la date du deux courant, adressée au Colonel Aquerre, Président de la susdite Commission, qui lui remet les pièces à charge contre le Capitaine Dominique, prévenu du crime de trahison et complice de la Conspiration tramée contre le

Gouvernement par le Général Jean-Pierre Richard, Commandant la place du Cap-Haïtien, à l'effet de le juger et connaître, en vertu de la Loi, si le crime à lui imputé est avéré ;

Ladite Commission, composée du Colonel Aquerre, Président, du Commandant Bouzy, Vice-Président, du Capitaine Frédéric, du Lieutenant Fayette, du Sous-Lieutenant Déroulette, du Sergent Cadet Dupuy et du Caporal Frêne Bogé, Juges, en présence du Capitaine Régnier, Quartier-Maître au 11e. Régiment, remplissant les fonctions de Rapporteur ;

1°. Après avoir donné lecture à l'accusé de la lettre du Général de Division Lamotteaigron, sus-relatée, par laquelle il remet les pièces à charge et convoque la susdite Commission ;

2°. La lettre du Général de Division Magny, Commandant l'Arrondissement du Cap-Haïtien, et la déclaration faite par ledit Capitaine Dominique au Général Magny ;

3°. Lecture de son interrogatoire, en date du deux courant ;

4°. Lecture de l'article 2 de la Loi du vingt-sept Février mil-huit-cent-sept, ainsi conçu :

« L'espionnage, la trahison, l'assassinat et meurtre quelconque ; l'incendie, la révolte à main armée, le viol, lorsqu'il aura occasionné la mort de la personne violée : tous les délits ci-dessus portés emporteront peine de mort. »

Après avoir entendu l'Accusé dans ses moyens de défense ;

Ouï les conclusions du Capitaine Rapporteur ;

La Commission militaire permanente, condamne, à l'unanimité, le nommé Dominique, Capitaine des Carabiniers de la Garde du Gouvernement, à la peine de mort, au vœu de l'article du Code Pénal, sus-cité, et être le présent jugement exécuté dans toute sa forme et teneur.

Fait clos et jugé sans désemparer, au Port-au-Prince, les jour, mois et an que dessus.

Le Caporal Frêne Bogé, a déclaré ne savoir signer.

CADET DUPUY, DEROULETTE, FAYETTE, P. FREDERIC, BOUZY, AQUERRE, REGNIER, RASTEAU fils, Greffier.

Au Port-au-Prince, de l'Imprimerie du Gouvernement.

Recd 6 April.

Special Agent to San Domingo.

No 14

Port au Prince March 19th
1821.

Sir,

I have this day drawn on you for five hundred dollars at 30 days sight, in favour of John Cruchon Esq. or Order; which bill please to honor, and charge the amount to

Your Obedient Servant

Schr. Wyer

Honorable
John Q. Adams
&c. &c. &c.
Washington

Cherokee Agency
January 1st 1824

Sir, I have the honor to
Enclose to you a Statement
of the Number of Cherokee
Indians who have emigrated
to the Arkansas River
Which I have

Edward Wyer—

Special agents

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E. Wyer

Agent to Hayti.

Read 11 May.

Washington April 10th
1821.

Sir,

Agreable to instructions received from the Department of State, I embarked on board the United States ship Ontario at Annapolis on the 9th of February last and proceeded to Cape Haytien.

On arrival there, I found the City in great commotion, owing to an Insurrection which had taken place among the Blacks, which endangered the Lives, and property of the coloured, and white inhabitants.

On application of the American merchants resident there to Captain Chauncey, soliciting his remaining for some days for their security, the same was promptly acceded to by him; and I am happy to add, that

the adoption of this measure was attended with the most salutary results, and that much praise is due to Capt Chauncey for his manly & Officer like conduct, at this alarming Crisis.

After remaining at the Cape ten days, during which time security being in a great measure restablished, and finding that the object with which I was intrusted by my Government, could not be effected there owing to the absence of President Boyer; I proceeded to Port au Prince, and on the day after my arrival waited on the President, and presented him my credentials.

I was politely received; and he observed that he was happy to see any one from the United States; but I could perceive a coldness in his manner, on reading my appointment, which did

not promise the most satisfactory results

The President then remarked he would enter on the business of my mission on the morrow, and after the usual Compliments I took my leave.

During the interview Mr Ingraac the Secretary General was present, who appeared a man of first rate talents and possessed a thorough knowledge of the English language. He is in the full confidence of the President Boyer, appears well disposed to our country, and in all affairs relative to the Government of Hati has great influence.

The day following I attended my appointment with the President, and had a long conversation with him in presence of the Secretary General, and Mr Armstrong the Comercial Agent of

the United States, the substance of which was as follows.

I stated the claims I was sent by my Government to adjust.

The President then remarked, that he was sorry it would not be in his power to pay the amount of the claims we had against the late Henry Christophe as he was a Rebel to the Republic, at the time he committed these depredations on the citizens of the United States, and that those who carried on commerce at that time, with those ports under the command of Henry Christophe, have no right to complain to the Government of the Republic, of the excesses committed in this regard by that Rebel.

I replied, that our claims was good, and sanctioned by the laws of nations

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The President answered "if you expect us to be governed by the laws of Nations, your Government must treat us like a Nation."

I then asked if any Proclamation declaring Chrisholm a Rebel, was ever issued by the Government of State. I was answered in the affirmative.

I then requested the President to furnish me with a copy of the proclamation which was complied with. vide papers A & B annexed.

This interview lasted some time. The President was very courteous, but I could perceive throughout that there was a dissatisfaction prevailing, at the manner in which our Government has hitherto treated that of State.

After this I had two interviews with the President

Boyer, and several with the Secretary General much to the same purport, except, that he gave me to understand that the remarks I have just made, was ill grounded, and that such were the real feelings of the President on the occasion He further observed, that President Boyer had some time since addressed a letter to the Government of the United States, to which he had never received a reply. I remarked that this might have been owing to the same having miscarried. I have now to state the purport of a conversation I had with the Secretary General relative to the flag of the United States paying five per cent more duties, on property landed in Hayti, than is exacted

prime Minister of Great Britain
and which I represented
as a grievance of which
we had great cause of
complaint.
His reply to this was
"that if the Government
of the United States would
recognise the Republic of
Hayti, or even send a Con-
sul General to the
Republic, then should
we be most happy to
place the United States
on a footing with the
Nation at present the
most favoured in this
country." An expression
to the same effect will be
found by reference to
Paper C extract from a
note from President
Boyer.
In this place I have to
observe, that in all cases
I found that whatever
the Secretary General said
or proposed, was acceded to

by the President
Finding the claims against
Christopher were rejected
I enquired of the Secretary
General in what manner
the claims against the
Government of Petion, or
that of the present Presi-
dent would be treated
His answer was, "that all
well founded claims against
the Republic for its own
acts would be kindly
received by the President
and settled by Law or
the principles of equity."
Vide Letter D extract of
note from President Boyer
on that point.
In all interviews with the
Secretary General, he expres-
ed great anxiety for a
good understanding with
the Government of the
United States, and the
most friendly feelings
towards us
As instances of which

an American vessel went
into Gonaives during the
late revolution, and hav-
ing procured a cargo of
Coffee, bought by her
Captain from the Rebels
(I believe the property to have
been stolen) the day after
went to sea. She was ta-
ken by one of the Haytian
vessels of war, and sent
into Port au Prince.
At my intercession this
vessel was released, and
allowed to depart with
her cargo. Again,
An American merchant
at Cape Haytian to whom
for certain causes a Patent
to conduct mercantile bu-
siness had been refused,
was on my personal ap-
plication immediately
granted
Having learned from the
Secretary General that
the President would de
part from Port au

Prince in two or three days for the North, with 10 or 12 thousand of his troops, and would not return before the middle of August, and having in the interviews, & conversations detailed, done all in my power the effect the object of my mission; and having again received from President Boyer a reiteration of his desire to be on the most friendly terms with the United States I took my leave; expressing at the same time my wish, that the Government of my country, and that of States might meet on terms of reciprocal advantage.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

with great respect

Your Obedient Servt

Jno. Wyer

The Honorable John Q. Adams. Washington.

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Extract from the Letter of Instructions of Mr. Adams Secretary of State; to Mr. Edward Wyer, Special Agent of the United States to the Government of Hayti, dated Department of State January 30th. 1821.

"Since the change which has recently taken place in the Government of the Southern part of the Island of St. Domingo, the President has determined to appoint an Agent to renew the demand of indemnity to certain Citizens of the United States deprived of their property by an arbitrary process of the Government of the late General Christophe; and having designated you for the performance of this service, he has directed me to furnish you with the usual Certificate of appointments of that nature.

The merits of the complaints and of the claims which have arisen under it are disclosed in the papers, copies of which are herewith delivered to you - Two unsuccessful attempts have already been made to obtain satisfaction for these injuries; the first by the appointment of Septimus Tyler, and the second by that of William Taylor for that purpose - The Government of Christophe refused to receive them, on the alleged reason, that they had not Credential letters recognizing his Royal title - This difficulty can no longer exist - The President of the other part of the Island, Boyer, whose authority is said now to extend to all the

Territories

Territories which were under the dominion of Christophe, has readily received and treated with Agents of the United States not otherwise accredited than with such a certificate, and Andrew Armstrong is now residing at Port-au-Prince, with a commission of similar purport.

We are not informed of the particulars in the organization of the Government at the Cape, as now established; but as that was the scene where the wrong was committed for which you are to require indemnity, it is deemed advisable, that you should first repair thither. It is to be presumed, that the local government will be most competent to make reparation for the local injury; and although by late advices, it appears that Boyer had returned to Port au Prince, it is not probable, either that he will be residing occasionally at the Cape, or that authority will be found there, to act upon the relations of the late government of the place.

Should you find it necessary, however, to repair to Port-au-Prince for the prosecution of the object of your Mission, you are authorized to do.

The alleged grounds upon which the property of citizens of the United States was seized and confiscated by Christophe, are utterly unwarranted by the laws of civilized nations. If the facts were all as stated by himself, that he had been defrauded by Agents of his own selection, and to whom he had entrusted property, within the United States; he owed not

not upon any principle of justice or equity, indemnify himself by levying contributions to the extent of his loss upon innocent citizens of the United States, merely because their property happened to be in his power - This position is so plain, that it can need no elucidation - Nor can it be more questionable that the government which has succeeded to that of Christophe, is bound to make restitution to foreigners for wrongs committed by him.

If it should be necessary, you will set forth the justice of the claims, by reference to the recognized principles of the Laws of Nations applicable to the case - You will be careful to observe moderating respect to the authorities with which the discussion is to be maintained, and in every communication with them a spirit of conciliation"

Loi du 7 avril qui déclare toutes les parties d'haïti soumises à la domination de henri Christophe, en état de révolte.

Le sénat, sur la proposition d'un de ses membres, considérant qu'il importe aux intérêts de la République de prendre les moyens convenables pour oter à henri Christophe tous les moyens de se maintenir dans la révolte, déclare qu'il y a urgence et décrète ce qui suit :

Article 1er

Toutes les parties d'haïti soumises à la domination de Christophe, sont déclarées en état de révolte.

Article 2.

Le président d'haïti est invité à faire croiser les batiments de l'Etat sur les côtes d'haïti occupées par les ennemis, pour détourner les étrangers qui y seront expédiés, et les faire entrer, pour leur propre sureté, dans les ports soumis à la République.

Article 3

Les batiments de cabotage sur les côtes ennemies, ou expédiés de leurs ports, sont déclarés de bonne prise.

Article 4

Il sera délivré des lettres de marque aux personnes qui voudront armer contre les révoltés, en observant les formalités exigées par les lois anciennes de la marine relatives à la course.

Article 5

Les capitaines des batiments de l'Etat sont tenus, sous leur responsabilité personnelle, de faire respecter les frontieres et les propriétés étrangères qu'ils auront détournées.

La présente loi sera imprimée.

Maison nationale le 7 avril 1807.

Signé, L. Aug.te Daunec Président,

Pélage Varein, secrétaire

Pour copie conforme

Le secrétaire général

E. B. Jaubert

Extrait des archives publiques. 26

N.O. Depuis 1er Sept. of
10 Sep. 1821.

Acte du 27 Janvier 1807 qui met hors la loi le général Christophe

Le Sénat après avoir pris connaissance d'une proclamation du Général Christophe en date du 15 Janvier, dans la quelle il cherche à égarer l'opinion des étrangers et à détruire la confiance qui est dûe au Gouvernement,

Considérant que le Général Christophe a fait incendier la plaine du cul de Sac, qu'il a attaqué, le premier de ce mois, à force ouverte, la ville du Port-au-Prince où réside le Sénat et sous les remparts de la quelle il a fait ruisseler le sang d'une infinité de malheureux qu'il avait égarés, et que loin de renoncer à ses projets destructeurs il persiste de plus en plus dans sa révolte en méconnaissant l'autorité nationale,

Considérant que tous les écrits de ce Général remplis des plus grossiers mensonges et des plus infames calomnies ne tendent qu'à désunir les citoyens et à les armer les uns contre les autres, et que tous ses actes annoncent clairement ses intentions de sacrifier une moitié de la population afin de pouvoir plus aisément régner sur l'autre,

Considérant qu'il a voulu avilir la nation, en cherchant à rejeter sur elle ses propres crimes et ceux de Dessalines,

Considérant qu'il a fomenté des insurrections dans le département du Sud où plusieurs familles ont été victimes,

Considérant que le délai prescrit par la constitution (art. 108 titre 7) pour l'acceptation des fonctions de Président étant expiré, ce motif est déjà suffisant pour prononcer sa destitution.

Considérant enfin que d'après la déclaration de plusieurs étrangers, le Général Christophe au lieu de profiter de la clémence du Sénat, a proposé au Général Ferrand Commandant pour les français à Santo-Domingo de se joindre à lui pour réduire les départements de l'ouest et du sud de cette Isle et y rétablir par conséquent l'esclavage et le despotisme,

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Arrête ce qui suit.

Article 1er

Henri Christophe, ci devant Général en chef, est destitué de toutes fonctions civiles et militaires.

Article 2

Tous les Généraux, officiers, et militaires de tous grades, tout fonctionnaire public et généralement tous les citoyens, sont dégagés de l'obéissance qu'ils lui devaient.

Article 3

La personne de Henri Christophe est mise hors la loi, et le Sénat invite tous les citoyens à courir sus.

Article 4

Amnistie est accordée à tous ceux qui se rangeront sous les bannières de la République, et qui contribueront à rétablir la Liberté.

Les Généraux, officiers et fonctionnaires publics, conserveront leurs grades.

A la Maison Nationale le 27 Janvier 1807

Signé Lys, Et. Gérin, Ch.le Trichet, L.s Aug.te Daumec, J.n L.s Dépas Médina, J.L. Barlatier, Ferrier, Bonnet, Fresnel, Ch. Daguilhe, David-Troy, Manigat, Simon, Lamothe aigron.

pour copie conforme

Le secrétaire général

B. Inginac

(Translation)

"

The President of Hayti informs Mr Wyer that the Government of the Republic is eager to treat the American commerce with respect to duties, upon the same footing, as that of the nations at present the most favoured in this country, if, on its side the Government of the United States recognise in a manner authentic and honorable to both nations the Independence of the Republic of Hayti"

signed (Boyer)

Port au Prince March 17. 1821.

Paper — C. —

In Ch: Wyeth's Letter of
10 April 1821.

(Translation)

In Ed: Wyeis letter of April 10. 1821.

"

As for all other well founded demands which the Government of the United States might have to make against that of the Republic (with the exception of the Christophe claim) for its own acts, it ought to be persuaded, that when the case occurs, they will be kindly received and discussed by the President according to the interest of the equity, and of the good understanding of the two nations".

Agreed (Boyer)

Port au Prince March the 17 -
1821. -

Paper. — D. —

Wayer C.

April 10. 1821.

Agent (St Domingo) for Claims.

JOEL R. POINSETT

1822

MEXICO

SPECIAL VOLUME

(See also, Volume 3, Special Agents
South America - 1813-1818)

JOEL R. POINSETT

REPORT ON CUBA, UNDATED, ABOUT 1823,
BOUND BY MISTAKE IN VOLUME 3, SPECIAL
AGENTS. TO BE TRANSFERRED AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE TO VOLUME 9, SPECIAL AGENTS.

THOMAS RANDALL

APRIL 15, 1823

CUBA

Special Agent

1 1/2 typ'n sheet

Enc. to letter from

Thos. Randall, dated June

1 - typ'n sheet

Bureau of Indexes and Archives

_____, 191

Missing

Randall & Adams 17 June 1823

Randall & Adams 13 and 14 May 1824

" " 9 June 1824

Vives & Adams " 11 and 12 May 1824

Not in these Letters or in Hervieu Despatches

Instructions in

Despatches & Enclos II 278, 279, 281, 283, 285, 292, 327.

4

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF ARMAMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Randall, Thomas
1823 - 1824

See Miscellaneous Letters
May 14 1824 Havana.

REMITIDO.

RESPETABLE PUBLICO.

El que se dice *Corsario español Esperanza* apresó el *bergantin goleta nombrado James Lowrence*, conduciéndolo á este puerto. Monsieur Santiago Rufén, armador de dicho corsario, se presentó en el Juzgado de primera instancia pidiendo se declarase buena presa, fundando su solicitud en los papeles que exhibió; siendo de advertir que ocultó los que me favorecían, y acompañó solamente los que sin el cotejo de los demas, y sin la esplicacion necesaria, creyó podrían perjudicarme. De esta pretension obrepticia y subrepticia, resultó lo que era de esperar, es decir, la sentencia sumaria que declaró libre el buque con arreglo á lo dispuesto en la Real órden de 21 de Diciembre último, y al articulo 31 de la ordenanza de corso, condenando el cargamento por parecer hasta entonces como propiedad de enemigos.

Supliqué la sentencia: pedí los autos, y advirtiendo en éllos las repetidas infracciones de la ordenanza de corso que había cometido el capitan del corsario, y el fraude y ardides de que se había valido, ocultando documentos, y silenciando hechos de mucha consideracion en el juicio, propuse el contradictorio, y entre otras pruebas vinieron al espediente (presentados por la misma mano del capitan apresador) los conocimientos de la carga, y otros documentos que á mi instancia exhibió. En su mérito, y corridos los trámites legales, pronunció el señor Juez de letras la sentencia que á la letra es la siguiente:

„Puerto-Rico 7 de Abril de 1823.—Vistos: resultando de este juicio contradictorio, instruido con arreglo al artículo 16 de la ordenanza de corso, justificado plenamente por las declaraciones tomadas, conocimientos, cuentas y facturas entregadas ahora por el capitan del corsario á pedimento del apresado, y mandato del tribunal, que todo el cargamento del bergantin goleta americano James Lawrence es de pertenencia neutra, y de consiguiente perímido el fundamento de la certificacion de fojas tres sobre que fué erigida la primera sentencia dada sumariamente, en que se declaró por buena presa todo el cargamento y efectos, como propiedad de enemigos, á causa de haber por entonces retenido el capitan del corsario los enunciados papeles que había recogido del apresado al acto de la detencion; *se revoca aquella sentencia en la parte del cargamento y efectos, declarándolos libres lo mismo que el buque*, debiendo en consecuencia restituirse todo al capitan apresado con arreglo al art. 52 de la ordenanza, para que continúe su viage, condenándose al capitan apresador en las costas, é imponiéndosele la multa de doscientos ducados que prescribe el articulo 13 de la misma ordenanza. Así lo proveyó, mandó y firma el Sr. D. Francisco Marcos Santaella, Magistrado honorario de la Escma. Audiencia del distrito, y Juez de letras de esta capital y su partido, de que doy fé.—Francisco Marcos Santaella.—José María Leon de Urbina, escribano real."

De esta justa sentencia han apelado el armador Rufén y capitan del corsario Esperanza, creyendo con evidente equivocacion que la Escma. Audiencia territorial podrá desentenderse de mi justicia, y de las pruebas concluyentes que existen en autos para complacer su capricho y temeridad, regalándole un cargamento de pertenencia neutra. Como para admitir la apelacion es indispensable asegurar sus resultas con fianza competente, ha dispuesto el Sr. Juez de letras que Rufén la ministre hasta la cantidad de sesenta y dos mil diez pesos. Para cnmplir el mandato judicial se ha valido de los Sres. D. Manuel Hernaiz, D. Cristóbal O-Rian, y D. José Martinez, que segun parece hasta ahora, quieren complacer á Rufén hipotecando el primero su casa, y los dos últimos sus respectivos ingenios.

Aun no se ha otorgado la fianza referida, porque con audiencia de partes se están allanando algunas dificultades de no corta consideracion; pero como es regular que llegue el caso de formalizarse aquel instrumento, hé creido oportuno dar al Público esta noticia para que si alguno se considera con derecho sobre las fincas que ván á gravarse, lo represente en tiempo, no sea que cuando vengan las resultas de la superioridad, y sea indispensable, como creo, sacar las fincas hipotecadas á la subasta pública, quieran alegarse preferencias que no tendrán lugar, así porque se han tenido á la vista las necesarias certificaciones del anotador de hipotecas, como porque este aviso que doy con anticipacion favorecerá entonces mi derecho, y repelerá toda gestion ó tercería que se intente por cualquiera ramo, establecimiento, ó persona acreedora á cualquiera cantidad, indemnizacion ó pago.

El Juez de la causa es el Sr. D. Francisco Marcos Santaella, que lo es de primera instancia de esta capital y su partido, y el Escribano es D. José María Leon de Urbina.

Puerto-Rico 21 de Mayo de 1823.

John Green.

Puerto-Rico 1823: Imprenta Fraternidad, de Blanco.

Capt. Greens notice to the Public
with Cap: Randall's letter of 17
June 1823.

PIRACY.

THE Brig Two Brothers, Anthony Knap, jun. Master, sailed from Newburyport, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the *twelfth* day of November, 1822, with a Cargo of Merchandize, and proceeded to St. Bartholomew, and from thence to St. Domingo city, where a considerable part of the Cargo was sold, and payment received in a Bill of Exchange on the Government of Port-au-Prince for Three Thousand Dollars, about Five Hundred Dollars in Haytien money, and Sixty-one Ox Hides, with which (together with a part of the outward Cargo, consisting of Boards, Staves, Molasses Hogsheads and Corn, amounting to about One Thousand Dollars,) they sailed for Jacquemel for the purpose of closing the sales of the outward and purchasing a return Cargo.———On the twenty-first day of December, 1822, at noon, being then off the Rock or Island of Atavella, on the south side of Hispaniola, and within five or six leagues of the land, the Two Brothers was boarded and taken possession of by the Master and Crew of a Piratical Schooner, about fourteen in number, all of whom were Spaniards, as appeared by their language—having also on board a woman—the Master of the Schooner being much scarred in his face.——Immediately after boarding the Two Brothers, the Pirates ordered Capt. Knap and his Crew into the hold of the Brig, where they were kept about twelve hours: At midnight Capt. Knap was ordered on deck, and with a Pistol presented to his breast he was threatened with death if he refused to state where the remainder of the proceeds of the Cargo was, beside the Five Hundred Dollars which they had found. Capt. Knap then produced the Bill of Exchange above mentioned, which the Captain of the Schooner immediately threw on deck and stamped on it, in great anger, considering it as a paper designed to deceive him. The Bill was afterwards taken up by Capt. Knap and concealed, and has since been paid.—Being disappointed in their search for more money, the Pirates then brought their Schooner along side the Two Brothers, and after taking off her sails and removing some other articles on board the Brig, they sunk the Schooner. They then proceeded to rob the Captain and Crew of the Brig of every article of value, and of nearly all their Clothing, and gave them the small boat with a small quantity of provisions and a keg of water, and ordered them to depart from their Brig. In this situation they proceeded for the shore, and having met a Haytien armed vessel in with the land, and obtained some assistance, they succeeded after much fatigue in getting to Jacquemel, where they arrived on the 28th of December.—Previous to their leaving the Brig, one of the Crew was informed by one of the Pirates, that they had landed a Cargo of Tobacco from the Schooner on the coast of St. Domingo.———From information since received, it appears that the said Brig Two Brothers still remains in possession of the said Pirates. On the *sixteenth* day of January, 1823, they boarded and robbed the Schooner Commerce, Capt. Stetson, from Curracoa, being then eight leagues to the leeward of the West end of Porto Rico,—and on the *twenty-first* day of February, or about that time, said Brig was seen by Capt. Gyles P. Stone of this town, (who well knew her) at Mayaguez, with a Cargo of Tobacco on board, which the Captain stated was taken on board at the Island of Cuba—and that he had bought the Brig of an American Captain at Havanna. At this time there was a woman on board the Brig, said to be the Captain's wife, which circumstance confirms the belief that the Brig was still in possession of the Pirates who took her from Capt. Knap.——There is reason to believe that the Tobacco which was on board said Brig at Mayaguez, was the same that had been previously landed on the coast of St. Domingo from the said Piratical Schooner, as from the circumstances above stated it appears improbable that the Brig could have been to any part of Cuba after her capture.——The Pirates took from Capt. Knap all the Vessel's papers—and there is no doubt the Brig has now on board her American Register, which was granted to Samuel Rolfe and Anthony Knap, as owners, at Newburyport, April 27, 1815. The Register is numbered 33, and describes said Brig as follows, viz. *her length sixty-four feet one inch—her breadth twenty-two feet—her depth nine feet four inches—and her admeasurement one hundred and ten tons and forty-three ninety-fifths.*——She is a high decked vessel—has a short quarter-deck, with only about six inches rise, the companion way even with the quarter deck, and opening directly from the main deck—has a very broad stern, long main-mast, and no main-topsail—and has a false keelson,—the upper gudgeon for the pintle of the rudder-brace, is driven into the stern-post like a bolt, instead of being nailed as a brace in the usual manner.

As the said Brig will probably be hereafter employed in the West-India seas, either as a Merchantman or as a Cruiser, it is hereby requested of all Commanders of Public Vessels of whatever nation—the Consuls in different Ports—the Officers of the Colonial Governments and of the Customs—and of all other persons, to use all proper measures to stop and secure said Brig, wherever she may be, with whatever Cargo may be found on board, and to give immediate notice to the subscribers.

Samuel Rolfe, }
Anthony Knap, } *Owners of the Brig Two Brothers.*
Anthony Knap, jun. *Master of said Brig.*

NEWBURYPORT, March 26, 1823.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ESSEX, ss.—TOWN OF NEWBURYPORT.——*BE IT KNOWN, That on this twenty-sixth day of March, A. D.* 1823, *before me,* SAMUEL TENNEY, *a Notary Public for the County of Essex, duly commissioned and sworn, residing in Newburyport, personally came* Samuel Rolfe *and* Anthony Knap, *owners of the Brig Two Brothers, and* Anthony Knap, jun. *late Master of said Brig, and made solemn oath that the foregoing statement is correct and true, according to their best knowledge and belief.*

{Seal.} *In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my Seal of Office, the day, month and year above written.*

SAMUEL TENNEY, Notary Public.

with Cap: Randall's letter
of 17 June 1823.

To the Commanders of the Public armed
Vessels of any Nation — the Consuls
of the U.S. — the Officers of the
Colonial Government in the West
Indies and of the Customs —

U. S. Schr Porto Rico June 5. 1823.

Dear Sir.

I have just had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Carpenter, and of learning from him the agreeable intelligence of the health and safety of your Brother and Bro. Mr C. informs me, that unless I can find it convenient to depart from this in two or three days. You are desirous of continuing at Lea. I regret to say that my public business is so far from being accomplished, that I cannot name a day short of a Week or 10 days at which I can reasonably expect to bring it to a close. I have yet a communication to the Political Chief of Matanzas to write, and also some information yet to collect for the Government.

Under these circumstances I submit it to your discretion, either to remain here or to take a short cruize for 8 or 10 days as you may find it most conducive to the public service, and consistent with your instructions. The latter course I should deem most advisable. I would further inform you that a Capt. Colby of the American Schooner "New Packet" bound to Boston has been alarmed at the report of a large Pirate Brig hovering off this Port and in division of a convoy a short distance from the land. I have advised Capt. Colby to visit you on board your Brig and have

have taken the liberty of giving him hopes that you would find it convenient to afford him the service he requires. I have also to inform you that the account given by Capt. Bobby is confirmed by other American Men who state that they have seen a suspicious looking vessel off this Port morning and evening.

I trust this short cruize may afford you an opportunity of boarding some more respectable Trade that circumstances justify and require a very strict scrutiny of every vessel you may meet

I am of course exceedingly desirous of preserving this place, but cannot yet consistently with the due performance of the duties confided to me by the Government. If you return in 8 days I shall then be ready to have this in as short a time as you may find it convenient to depart.

I pray you &c

Thomas Randall

John Gallagher Esq
Com. U. S. Brig Enterprize

Translation

Superior Political Government
of the Islands of Puerto Rico.

The letter which you have been pleased to direct to me on the 2d inst. remain with me including the instructions which you have from your Government for the fulfilment of the commission which it has confided to you.

Under the circumstances I shall make use of them as shall be found necessary, and in the mean time assure you that this Government will take the greatest pleasure, on whatever occasion you shall afford them, to manifest the particular esteem which it entertains for you, and for the correct principles which govern you in obedience to the nation to which you belong, and for the relations of good friendship and harmony which subsist between them to which we both belong

God preserve you &c.

Puerto Rico 7th June 1823.

Signed

Fco. Gonz.
de Linares

To Thomas Randall

Randall Thomas
Rec'd 24 May

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Havana 9th May 1824.

The Hon.ble
John Quincy Adams
Secretary of State.
Sir.

I have the honor to inform you, that I arrived in this City on the 3d inst., in 6 days from New York.

The Morning after my arrival, I had an interview with the Captain General and Governor (Vives,) and presented to him the Communications from you, and also the Letter Patent from the President appointing me as Agent and Commissary, to receive the Archives and documents stipulated to be delivered up by the Florida Treaty. A Copy of this last paper I have since furnished to him.

The Governor perused them in my presence, and stated that they should receive prompt and due consideration, the result of which should be communicated to me. He made no remarks in relation to the business nor did he invite any from me.

On Thursday the 6th I was preparing a communication to him, in relation to the most urgent subject, - Mr Hollins's business, when I received an invitation from him to meet him on the ensuing Morning at 9 O'Clk, at which time. I accordingly waited on him, and had a long conversation in relation to all the subjects confided to me by the

Government.

Government, the purport of which I proceed to communicate. He commenced by remarking that he had considered on the case the communications from my Government, and then asked me if I certainly knew in what Tribunal the suit of Mr Collins rested. I answered that I knew generally that the suit had been carried on between the Syndics of Gonet and Mr Collins, in the ordinary Tribunal for the cases of Attachment of property (The Consulado), that an appeal had been taken by Mr Collins to His Majesty in Madrid, and a Royal Order had been granted by the King in 1807, to have the Record & proceedings transferred to Madrid for his Royal decision, which order had not been obeyed; But that Gonet with the view of delaying or avoiding the Appeal, had made a suggestion to the Intendant General, of Contraband; in consequence of which, the case and the whole proceedings had been removed into the Tribunal of the Intendant General, where they actually rested. That a complete copy of the Procedings existed in the Consulado, for which Mr Collins had paid a large sum.

His Governor then remarked, that his powers as Capt. General a Military Chief, did not extend to control or direct other Departments of the Government; That as in the United States the Military & civil Departments were distinct & independent; That all he could do would be to aid by way of advice and recommendation, an

application

application to the Intendant General by me, in case I ascertained the suit was in his Tribunal - and that his influence should be used to effect my object - He concluded by advising me to write an official note to the Chief of that Department, stating my authority and object. and that he would also transmit to him a copy of the communication from my Government in relation to the affair, which he had received from me. I suggested that this case was the most urgent, and that it was indispensable if any thing was done at all, that it should be effected in a very few days, as there was merely time to receive the Proceedings already completed, and transmit them to the United States for the last Session of the Commissioners. To which he answered that he was aware of the fact and should so represent it.

The Governor then introduced the subject of the James Lawrence, and made similar remarks, as above upon the separation and independency of the Military and Marine Departments, to the latter of which he said the consideration of this subject belonged. I took occasion here to remark, that the case of the James Lawrence was not the only one in reference to which I had received instructions from my Government to make enquiries, and collect information. That in the past and preceding year, during the confusion and civil dissentions on the Peninsula, when the control and power of the Supreme

Government

Government of Spain over its distant Provinces, was for a time relaxed or suspended, certain proceedings of a very extraordinary nature and fraught with calamities injurious to the Commerce and prosperity of Citizens of the U. States, had occurred in Porto Rico; which has excited much feeling in the U States, and which would no doubt meet the decided disapprobation of his Catholic Majesty. That captures had been made of American vessels and property, and condemnations ensued, contrary to existing Treaties between Spain & the U. States, and to the Laws of Nations. That I had been dispatched during the last Spring to that Island, for the purpose of protesting against these proceedings, demanding restitution & indemnity, and collecting the proceedings of the Courts on their trials, and the evidences of the losses of American Citizens for the information of my Government. That appeals in some of those cases had been brought to this Island, and I was now instructed by my Govt. to collect information as to their situation and progress.

I added, that for similar injuries to the property of British Subjects, this Government had threatened, and were about to authorize instant reprisals, when full indemnity and security were promised by Spain; and that it was only owing to the friendly disposition of the Government of the U States towards that of

of Spain, and to a reliance upon its justice and good faith to make reparation, which had restrained the U States from a resort to the same unpleasant measure of force. To all this the Governor answered, that the Captain General of Porto Rico, and the maritime Courts there, were independent of the Government of Cuba; that as to the Appeals existing in the Tribunals of this Island from Porto Rico, I should inform myself of their situation, by application to the General of Marines, upon whom I was permitted to call.

The Governor here paused as if he had nothing further to communicate, when I took the liberty of drawing his attention to the subject of the Florida Archives, which I was authorized and directed by the President to demand. He answered, that that subject had been submitted to the consideration of his Predecessor in Office, who had fully and satisfactorily explained & settled it; and he evinced a disinclination even to consider or discuss it, intimating his opinion that the Government of the U. States ought to be satisfied, that no such documents existed. I then told him, that I was in possession of some new facts which had occurred since the Epoch to which he had alluded, and which if he permitted me to state, might render it proper for his Excy. now to interfere. At his request I mentioned to him, the fact of the letter of the Spanish Minister (San Miguel) to Mr Forsyth of the 18th

1820

1822, (a copy of which I stated had been furnished me,) by which My Government was informed that a new and peremptory Royal order of that date, had been sent to the Captain General of Cuba, for the delivery of the Archives to Lt. Riddle, or other Agent authorized to receive them. As to the existence of the Archives & documents stipulated to be surrendered by the Treaty, I offered as evidence the fact, that my Govern.t had been officially informed, that documents of that character, had been brought by Individuals from the Havana, apparently authenticated by the late Captain General, and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for Land Claims in Florida, as evidences of title. In reference to the denial of the existence of such documents by Governor Mathews, I remarked, that without impeaching in the least the fairness and truth of his assertion, it might be supposed without disrespect, that those papers might have been subsequently discovered; or that such a denial may have been caused by a difference of opinion between that Chief and the American Government, as to the nature and character of the documents stipulated to be surrendered by the 2.d Article of the Treaty. That in fact there was a great deficiency in the public Archives of Florida, so as to render it impracticable to settle the claims to property in that Territory - That I was in possession of the character and classes of documents

which

which my Government considered to be embraced by the provisions of the Treaty, and respectfully submitted to him, whether after agreeing upon the nature and description of the documents intended to be embraced by the Treaty, the institution of a new examination into those Boxes of Papers, acknowledged by Govr. Mahy to have been brought from Florida to this place in 1819, by a Spanish Officer assisted by an American Agent, might not settle the difficulty and fully satisfy both Governments -

The Governor answered that no such Royal Order as that indicated in the despatch of the Minister (San Miguel) of the 18 Sept. 1822, had been received in this Province, and he presumed none such had been sent - He made no remark upon the fact of the subsequent production of such documents from the Havana before the Florida Commissioners - But to the proposition made by me of a new Examination, he stated his objection; and seemed to view it in a light different from its true one, and as offensive to the Spanish Government and its Officers. Remarking that to the proposal of a joint examination, there were two decided objections - The first that such a proceeding would seem to indicate a suspicion, as to the fairness and honor of the Spanish Officer, who had heretofore denied the existence of those documents; and secondly, that he could never consent that the Archives & private papers of his Government,

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and its Officers, should be submitted to the inspection and examination of a foreigner. He further remarked, that my Government ought to be satisfied with the assurances already received, of the non existence of the documents in question; and that if there was a loss of Papers, and difficulties existed in finding the necessary Evidences & titles to property, it ought to be ascribed to the irregularity of their own Officers, in forcibly seizing on papers, instead of waiting until they had been regularly brought to this place, aported and deposited.

I understood him here to allude to the affair of Col.ᵃ Callava and Gen.ˡ Jackson, to which I did not deem any reply necessary.

He then made some remarks & objections, in relation to the character in which I appeared before him, and to the nature of the duties confided to me: stating that he as Captain General of a Province of Spain, was not entitled nor empowered to receive foreign Agents from the Supreme Government of a Nation, or to answer to requisitions such as the one now made. That to the Supreme Government of them the application should have been made, and that without a Royal Order the Papers even if found, could not be delivered up. This suggestion he said was made merely to satisfy me & my Government, that if every thing was not done which might be expected, it would be owing to his want of ability only, and not to disinclination.

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on his part. During these remarks, the Governor frequently urged the same argument used by Governor Mathy to Capt. Biddle, and also by the Spanish Minister, by repeatedly asking, what interest Spain and its Officers, could have to withhold the documents & evidences of title to property in a Territory, which she had actually surrendered & given up -

To all this I replied, that I had hoped the explanation I had previously made, would have cleared my proposition of every appearance of disrespect or of suspicion, as to the fairness of the conduct of those Spanish Officers, who had before acted on this subject - That the Predecessor of this Excelly had admitted, in a letter of the 16 May 1821, "that Boxes of Papers of the Archives of that Province, had been removed from Florida to this place in 1819," which were to be sported and separated; and although he afterwards stated, that they had been scrupulously examined, and were found not to be of the character referred to in the Treaty, yet it may have been, that the difference in his construction from my Government, as to the nature of the documents, "which relate directly to the property and sovereignty of the Provinces". That the importance of the subject, together with the subsequent production of such documents from the Havana, justified my Government in requesting a new examination & search. I further stated, that my proposition did not necessarily involve the objection

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of exposing the private papers of his Government, as my object in proposing the assistance of an Agent of the U. States, was merely that he might state the nature of the papers required by his Government, while the whole duty of examining the mass of papers, would be performed by a Spanish Officer. I added, that my Government was well aware that neither Spain nor its Officers, could have either interest or inclination to withhold documents belonging to the U States or its Citizens; and that if his Excely should simply assert, that he was convinced from his own knowledge, that no such documents existed, I was well assured that my Government would be fully satisfied with his assertion, and would require no such reasons or arguments to fortify his declaration.

With respect to his alleged want of authority, I stated that there did exist a Royal Order of His Catholic Majesty of the date of the 24 Octr 1820, which had been brought to the Havana by Colr Forbes in Apl 1821, and which was designed by his Government to confer full powers on the Captain General of Cuba in relation to this business; and finally, that I merely appeared in the character and relation, similar to that of Colr Forbes & Capt Riddle both of whom had been received; and such as was contemplated and approved of in the letter of the Spanish Minister of the 18 Sept 1822, to which I had before referred.

The Governor appeared to be satisfied with this explanation,

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and requested me to write him a seperate note upon this subject. stating the natures and classes of the documents claimed by the U States, and any evidence I might have of their existence at this place; and promised to search for the Royal Order to which I had referred him, and if he found that he was authorized to act upon the subject, he would order a new search for the Papers. He intimated however, that if found they would be kept apart, and ready for the disposition of his Government, which should be notified of the fact.

I also requested official copies of the letters from the Capt. General (Apodaca) and Governor Kindelan of Florida which were required by Mr Hamilton Commissr. of Land Claims in that Territory, in a letter from him enclosed to me from the State Departt. These Papers the Governor promised to supply if I would give him a sufficient description of them in writing.

I have now thus given to you a full detail of the conversation I had the honor to hold with the Capt. General in reference to all the subjects confided to me by the Government, which I fear you will consider unnecessarily minute & prolix. For this I must observe in apology, that the subjects have been considered of importance by the Government, and I felt it my duty to inform it fully of whatever occurred in relation to them. And I know no better mode of imparting to it a knowledge of the present posture

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of the business, and the prospects of ultimate success. From this course I promise myself the further advantage, that whenever I may have omitted to say or do any thing material & proper in relation to these subjects, I may have the advice and further instruction of the Government.

In conformity with the suggestion & permission of the Govr. hor, I lost no time in making a written application to the Intendant General for the Record & proceedings of the suit of Mr Hollins in his Office, in which I urged with all becoming earnestness an immediate compliance with my request. It is proper to remark, that the Record for which I applied is the original one in the suit, which was ordered sent to the King of Spain, before whom only original are produced on appeal - but which was arrested and detained (as above stated) by the Intendant General in violation of the Royal Order. The copy for which Mr Hollins paid, only in the Consulado, and I was advised that it would be in vain to apply for it specifically, as it would there in the nature of an original Record; and that there would be a better prospect of obtaining the original from the Intendancy, a Tribunal to which the case did not properly belong, but which against all law & precedent, had usurped jurisdiction of the suit, upon false suggestions of the Parties, made with the view of obstructing justice. Should I succeed in obtaining this Original Record there will be an entire security against fraud

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and mutilation which Mr Rollins might apprehend in a box. I cannot flatter myself that there is much chance of success to my application to the Intendant General, at least in time to be transmitted to the United States for the Commissioners. In the event of failure I shall prepare a Certificate of the fact to be presented to the Commissioners as is required.

With respect to the other subjects, of the Florida Documents, and the Appeal cases from Porto Rico, no time shall be lost in bringing them to the attention of the Capt. Genl and the General of Marine respectively in the mode indicated by the former. In the first I am indirectly procuring Enquiries amongst the Notaries and other Officers charged with the Archives brought from Florida, by which I have reason to expect, to ascertain that Papers of the character embraced by the Treaty actually exist here. Should this be the case I shall not hesitate to represent it to the Captain General, and thus preclude him from the denial of their existence, which has heretofore served the Authorities here, as a decisive answer to the just demands of the United States.

Since writing the above I have this day (the 11th Inst.) received from the Intendant General a Letter in answer to my application in which he states that the Proceedings (Autos) in the Suit in question, he is informed by the Notary of this Intendancy (El Escribano de esta Intendencia)

had

had been removed to the Tribunal of the Royal consulado," In consequence I immediately applied to the Notary of the Consulado to know if the Papers were in his office. When he promptly & positively denied that they had been returned - and challenged the production of a receipt for them which he said must have been given for them if the fact were as represented - Renewing my application to the Notary of the Intendancy, I was told that the Proceedings had been either returned to the Tribunal of the Consulado, or delivered to the Syndic of the Estate of Gonet - But that no receipt had been taken for them - but only a Note or Memorandum made of the transfer

From this gross & palpable equivocation and fraud between those Tribunals, you may judge of the probability of success in my application without the exercise of some controlling power on the part of the Captain General - I did not therefore hesitate a moment, to frankly state the facts to him, and invoke his interposition to extricate me from the tangled mazes of contradiction & obscurity in which those officers had combined to involve the whole subject - From the palpable nature of the fraud and evasion attempted, and from the frank and honorable character which the Captain General sustains, I do hope that some prompt and decisive step will be taken by him - If I be disappointed in this expectation,

I shall

I shall after two days consider the application to have failed & take the ulterior measure of sending a Protest and Statement to the United States, for the Commissioners -

May 12th. I have this morning received from the Captain General the accompanying letter directed to you, together with a communication to myself the purport of which only I have time to state before the sailing of the steam ship, which will bear this letter. This Excellys letter states "That he has given a suitable invitation to the Tribunals of the Consulado and Intendancy to furnish to me a copy of the Proceedings in the Suit of Mr. Hollins - that this invitation does not overreach the Prerogatives of those Tribunals, and that this is the whole extent to which his powers and authority reach.

I trust in my next letter to enabled to inform you of the result of my renewed application for the Florida Documents, and of the other matters committed to my charge.

I have the honor to be with very great respect

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

Randall. Thos.

Received 4th July.

Havana June 21st 1824.

The Hon.ble
John Quincy Adams
Sec.y of State.
Sir.

My letters to you of the 12th & 14th ult.o gave an account of my proceedings up to that date. The first of those letters was dispatched by the Steam Boat Robert Fulton to New York, and the last by the Schr. Chase, which sailed on the 15th ult.o for Charleston S.C.

I have now the honor to forward copies & translations of all my correspondence with the Authorities of this Island in reference to the several subjects confided to me, and to report to you what has since occurred; and the actual state of the business. I should not have suffered so long an interval to elapse without writing, but that I have been within these days, been unable to write for near three weeks, from sickness. I was taken on the 4th Inst. with the usual fever of this Island, which although of short continuance, left me much reduced & debilitated, from which I am now nearly recovered.

I shall proceed with the subjects in the order in which they have before been adverted to. My letter above referred to, with the accompanying Protest, will have informed you of my failure to obtain up to that period, the documents & proceedings in the suit of W. Wellens. Since that date I have again applied at the Office of the Consulado.

Consulado, and found that nothing had yet been effected.
The Judges dispatched repeated Messengers to Commodore Rubio (the Lyndee of Gonaïves Island) before them, with the purpose to make him deliver up the Proceedings (status); but he constantly contrived to evade the Summons, and would not appear. After a long attendance on them, they requested me to retire, and await the result of their Measures, assuring me that every effort should be made to effect the object without delay. One of the Judges, even assured me, that he would proceed in person to the House of Rubio, and take from him the Papers. A Month has since elapsed, and I have not heard from them in relation to the subject.

This result I was fully prepared to expect, as well from what I had observed myself, as from information derived from Persons entirely acquainted with the previous transactions in this suit, and with the Characters of all concerned. The affair is one of such palpable injustice & oppression, and the Record would present such a case of fraud & corruption, systematically carried on for years, and involving the character of both Suitors & Courts, that every effort will be made to suppress the history of the transaction. Besides the amount in deposit is very large, and the Persons interested numerous & powerful. Even should the present Judges of the Consulado be sincere in the disposition they avow, to deliver the Papers, they have no power to arrest them from Rubio (if indeed he have them) but after a tedious

litigation.

litigation. I have therefore awaited in silence the result of their measures, as owing to the limitation of the Office of the Commissioners under the Florida Treaty, the Record would be no longer available to the purpose first designed by the Government.

(So soon as my attention could be withdrawn from this affair, it was directed to that of the Florida Archives & Documents. On the 21 ult^o I wrote to the Captain General (Vives), a letter in relation to this subject; and also a despatche note of the same date, requesting Official Copies of the Documents required by the Florida Land Commissioners; both of those letters (Marked N° 7 & 8) I have the honor to enclose. I had delayed this letter for some days, while I was prosecuting inquiries privately, as to the existence of some of those Documents, in the Office of a Notary, which was removed from Florida; and in which I was informed they were deposited. My inquiries have hitherto been ineffectual from the caution I have to use, but I have still hopes of being able to point out to the Captain General the Depository of some of those Documents. To this letter I received on the 28th an answer, in one from the Captain General of the date of the 26th ult^o, a translation of which I inclose with (Marked N° 9) By this you will observe, that he promises to have instituted a scrupulous search into the Boxes of Papers brought to this place from West Florida, for the Documents in question, by Persons of full confidence and intelligence, and to inform

me

me of the result in due season. Nothing has since been communicated to me respecting these Negotiations.)

In relation to the case of the Brig James Laurence, and of those other American Vessels captured by the Porto Rico Privateer, and brought by a Vessel to this Island. I have to inform you. That soon after my arrival I ascertained, that although appeals had been ordered by the Court of Porto Rico, (in consonancy with the then existing Regulations) to be carried up to the Supreme Court of Appeals at Principe in this Island, styled "Real Audiencia de esta Isla residente en la Ciudad de Puerto Principe"; yet that a new Regulation had intervened, by which that Tribunal had no longer Cognizance of Prize cases; that in fact that Tribunal no longer had its sittings at Principe, but had been translated with certain Modifications in its Organization to this City. The Appeal cases in question were in consequence transferred to the Department of the Marine. The Court is styled "Tribunal Militar" and consists of the Commandant General of the Marine, an Auditor, and a Fiscal. When sitting as a Prize Court of Appeal, they have associated with them certain Officers of the Navy and of the Marine Department, called "Vocales" or Voters, when they unite in a Court styled "Real Junta de Marina del Apostaderos de la Habana".

When it appeared that the transfer of Jurisdiction in those cases of Appeal from Principe to this City, being the consequence of a general Regulation, could not be

considered.

considered as a fair subject of complaint by an individual Suitor, although the change might subject him to incon-
venience. I also learned, that there were pending only three
cases of Appeal of American subjects, from the Courts of
Porto Rico at the time of my arrival. Those were the Case
of the James Lawrence. Master of the Brig Otter of Boston
Capt. Keating, and that of the Brig Musquito Capt.
Roberts. Of this last Appeal (being one of the latest dispatches)
I received the first notice at this place. In all those cases,
there were Agents at this place attending on behalf of those
interested in the United States, to prosecute the Appeals. From
them I endeavoured to obtain such information & evidence
as might point out to me the most effectual mode to
interpose in their behalf. They all complained of the
most vexatious and enormous delays on the part of the
Court, and of imposition practised by the Police &c. and
solicited me to take some measures to stimulate the Court,
to do them justice. Although the predicament in which
those cases stood, was much changed, since their removal
from Porto Rico, and it had now become an affair of
some delicacy to interfere with the proceedings of a
Tribunal of such high rank & authority: yet feeling
satisfied that an interposition by the Agent of the
United States, acting in the name of his Government, would
have a beneficial effect, I determined to make the
experiment. It is proper also to state, that this Tribunal
does not possess a very high character for integrity and

independence

independence. It is universally suspected of being accessible to undue influence. To account for this it is only necessary to state. That although nominally composed of several high Officers and Judges, the whole influence and active duties center in two subordinate Officers the Auditor and Fiscal. and principally in the last. The others are merely confined to visiting & register his (the Fiscals) Decrees. The Commandant General of Marine nominally presides in the Tribunal, but as he informed me himself has no actual power or weight. Having no confidence in such a Court, and feeling convinced that in the suits in question, there was great danger of unfair influence being used by some of the parties, I determined to make such a representation to the General of Marine, for the information of the Court, as would satisfy it that my Government was vigilant upon its proceedings, and that then would be some risk of exposure in case of unfairness.

Accordingly called on the Com.r General of Marine, and had an interview with him on the 20th ult.o. Requested from him information with respect to all the cases of appeal from Porto Rico, and copies of all the sentences and Decrees which should be pronounced by the Court on which he presided upon those cases.

I took occasion to state fully to him the character and proceedings of those Privateers, the violence & outrage of their conduct, towards the persons & property of citizens of the United States, and the countenance and support they had received from the inferior Courts of that

Island.

Island. I expressed to him the deep interest my Government felt on this subject, and its determination to exact from all concerned full indemnity & remuneration for its citizens. The substance of my remarks to him, are contained in a copy of a letter herewith enclosed (marked No 10) which I addressed to him immediately after our interview. Wherein I also enclosed a list of all the cases of capture of which I was informed. He listened with much attention to my statement, and expressed the greatest indignation at the Porto Rico proceedings; over which Island he stated he had at that time no control. He styled them Privateers - Pirates & Robbers and said if he had the power he would hang them up, as had been done at Jamaica. As to the appeals he promised to furnish me with the information I desired, and to use his influence to have them decided as soon as possible - He however complained of his want of power and of his being altogether shackled and controlled by the Lawyers as he termed the Fiscal and Auditor, who managed as they pleased in those cases. He requested me to furnish him with a list of all the captures made by those Privateers that he might order full enquiry of the Courts proceedings for his own Government. This request I readily complied with (as above stated,) as I was thereby enabled to bring the same consideration to the Court over which he presided - He General of Havanna appeared to be

almost

a most frank, honorable and worthy man, which character he generally sustains -

The only case yet decided is that of the Brig Otter. The Decree in which was pronounced the 1st Inst. I have had a hasty perusal of this Decree, and shall endeavour to procure a Copy of it for your Department. By it the sentence of condemnation against the Vessel and Cargo at St. Germain is reversed. The Vessel and Cargo fully cleared and full costs awarded. The Decree is drawn up and signed by the Fiscal & afterwards approved by the "Junta". It is full in its details and most severe in its reprehension of the proceedings at Porto Rico - It states the captures to have been lawless and piratical, and declaims in animated terms ag.t the conduct of the Captors - It treats the Judge of the Court below with no more respect, but charges him plainly with corruption and "plundering the innocent" It speaks of the "illegal & monstrous proceedings of a Judge who in those times had jurisdiction" - The Decree is undoubtedly just and its denunciations true but this Fiscal who wrote it, and who declaims with such zeal and eloquence, against the corruption of the inferior Judge, and against "plundering the innocent" before he would pronounce this Decree, insisted upon being paid 100 Doblons by the Party in whose favor it was rendered - and finally reduced his demand to 70 - Doblons (equal to 1190 Dollars -) which sum they were

actually

actually obliged to pay him, before he would decide the cause. This fact I would not have believed, and certainly should not venture to report, but upon the most unquestionable authority - It is an undoubted fact which I deem proper to be noted, as an important feature in the history of those cases, serving to show to the Government, the flagrant imposition practised upon its citizens when asserting claims of unquestionable justice. In this case I do not believe that if the reward had been withheld an opposite decree would have been pronounced, at least under existing circumstances, when they are closely watched. But vexatious delays were threatened & would have been practised, and a greater sacrifice have resulted to the Parties than the amount then extorted. Capt. Keating received his Decree & sailed immediately for Porto Rico to prosecute for indemnity - & his security was vacated from the Captors - I fear his success will be very doubtful.

The cases of the James Lawrence progresses very slowly - Since the Decree in the case of the Otter, there can be no doubt as to its favorable termination, for besides it being a case of equal justice, it is fortified by the judgment of the Court below. The same may be said of the Mosquito, except that the last mentioned vessel was condemned at Porto Rico - The suits are ready for decisions, but the Decrees are most unnecessarily & vexatiously delayed to the great expense and exposure of health on the part of

the

the Agents of the Claimants; and they begin to apprehend that this delay is preparatory to a similar reaction, as in the case of the Otter. I hope in a few days to be enabled to inform you, of the successful termination of those suits. In the mean time I shall be duly observant of the proceedings of the Court, and if necessary shall use further efforts with the proper Authorities to facilitate their release

The history of those captures cannot but impress a conviction of the inefficacy of the ordinary pacific modes of seeking redress for injuries of this nature. It has been seen that mere remonstrances & complaint, without the exhibition of force and the fear of instant retaliation & reprisal are disregarded and contemned. That redress by the Courts, is tardy uncertain and always inadequate. In truth it may be affirmed that Capture by Spanish Cruizers, upon any pretext, and however lawless & unauthorized, and however aggravated, is, in many cases equivalent to a total loss; and always attended with great risk of health & life, and with immense pecuniary sacrifices by the Captured. Even a reliance for redress on the Supreme Government of Spain is in most cases illusory and misplaced; For the Trials in those cases and in the suit of W Hollins with them, with what little respect, the Royal Orders and Decrees of the Spanish King are regarded in the Courts of those distant possessions. I hope to be pardoned for venturing those reflections which are made with

great

great diffidence, and are elicited by the deep importance of the subject to the Character of the United States and to the rights of their Citizens. I know that they are unnecessary to the Executive, already fully convinced of their truth. I only wish that they may be duly felt by the Congress of the United States, and that powers adequate to the exigency may be conferred upon the President. I confidently believe that at the commencement of this system of Piracy a single Frigate or Sloop of War sent to Porto Rico with Authority to make Apprisals, would have at once suppressed the mischief.

Knowing the deep solicitude, felt by the Executive on the subject of the Slave Trade, I proceed to state some circumstances in relation to it which have come to my knowledge in this Island. It is notorious here that it is conducted at this time with great activity, and that vessels are constantly arriving here with full Cargoes of Slaves from the Coast of Africa. Although somewhat embarrassed, it has been but little checked, and never entirely suspended by the Convention between Great Britain and Spain for its suppression. That Convention, has proved to be imperfect in its provisions, and inadequate to its suppression. The powers of the Board of Commissioners in this Island, charged by the Treaty with its execution, are too limited; and its mode of action too restricted & embarrassed, to allow it to afford an adequate remedy. Of these facts all Parties are now convinced.

I have

I have become acquainted with Mr Kirby, the only English Commissioner now here, and he candidly admitted to me the truth of the above statements. He observed "that for the four years the Convention has existed, it has had no effect whatever. That the Commission created by it has been inert & useless, and to use his own words might as well be in Africa". As an evidence of it, he stated that since its establishment, but one Slave vessel had been brought before it, and that was a case not fitted for the exercise of its powers. That this has arisen from its defective Organization, it being a mere Tribunal authorized to adjudicate cases of information regularly brought before it, in a prescribed Mode, none of which are presented. That it has no active inquisitorial powers. He further stated that when most flagrant & notorious violations of the Convention had been brought to his personal knowledge, he had reported them to his Authorities, and called upon them to interpose, and bring the vessels to trial. but his representations were disregarded."

Such an extent is the violation of the laws carried, that of late the Traders scarcely think it necessary to proceed surreptitiously, except near or in the large Ports. At others they arrive and land their cargoes openly, as has been done in a late case at Whatanzas. From this city they fit out their vessels to trade to the coast of Africa, and in due season return here

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in ballast without question, after having landed their Slaves at obscure places in the Island. Within a few weeks no less than three suitable American vessels have been purchased by Spaniards at this place, and are fitting out openly for the Slave Trade. They do not think it necessary even to keep their purpose secret.

The Convention is so odious to all Spaniards that they make a merit of violating it. They say in justification of their conduct, that it was obtained by the British Government, through the influence of a bribe of £100,000 to the wife of the Spanish Minister Ozzaro, and that for making this Treaty he was dismissed. That the sum of £400 000 paid by Great Britain as the consideration of the Treaty, was designed as an indemnity to the Spanish subjects who had suffered by British captures before the prohibition, but was never applied to this purpose, but expended in Russian Men of War.

Within a few days a Slave vessel with 400 Slaves on board was brought into this Port prize to a Spanish Man of War. She had been captured at Bahia Honda a few miles to the Leeward, where she had landed about 100 Slaves. The owners for greater security, had themselves captured her a few days before by this own Privateer, which had carried her to that Port, and were discharging of her freight, when captured by the Man of War. This is a case peculiarly fitted for the cognizance of the Commission, having been captured by persons

designated.

designated by the treaty, and brought to its place of destination.
And yet to this day I am assured the case is not even reported to the Board. In the mean time what every one predicted is actually occurring. The Slaves are smuggled on shore every night, and the trade soon be done up for the decision of the Board. On the day the brig arrived I found it stated in a large circle, that the next morning there would be a large number reported dead. I made a minute of the remark in writing, and the next morning was not surprized to hear that 193 of the Slaves had died during the night from suffocation. In other words there were that number missing which had been carried on shore & disposed of during the night.

As to the number of Slaves annually introduced into this Island from the nature of the trade it is difficult to form an Estimate. Opinions vary from 10.000 to 25.000. and some Estimates still more largely. From what I have heard of the number of Vessels engaged in it, and of the frequency of their arrivals I believe the may amount to the smallest Estimated number.

I deemed it of much importance, to inquire from Mr Kelly as well as to inform myself from all other proper sources, whether any Vessels or Citizens of the United States were known to be engaged in the Traffic. I was happy to learn from all Quarters, that none were believed to be at present engaged or to have any concern in it. Their participation in this iniquitous traffic is believed

to

to have ceased for several years.

I took occasion to assure Mr Kelly of the deep interest my Government felt in the suppression of this Trade, a new & signal evidence of which has been given in the late Convention with Great Britain on this subject. And I requested that should he become possessed of any facts in relation to this trade the knowledge of which might be useful to the United States by giving direction to their efforts towards its suppression, he would communicate them to me for the information of my Government. He professed very readiness to communicate freely to me whatever might be useful and his wish to cooperate with the Officers of the United States to that desired End.

From Mexico we receive no political intelligence of importance. The few accounts from that country, are brought by Merchant vessels from the coast which give but little information as to occurrences in the interior, and the meagre accounts they bring are of very questionable authenticity. The last report we had, were that the Garrison at St Juan de Ulloa was greatly reduced by sickness & death, and that an expedition was fitting out at Carthagena by the Colombians for its reduction.

This Island since the establishment of the Royal prerogative, enjoys apparently a perfect political Calm. The Elements of Revolution and disaffection which at that Epoch had been considerably excited, have been kept down by the Energy of the present Government. But although repressed

they

they are not believed to be extinguished. The factions are however composed of the least respectable part of the population. They are supposed to be men of desperate fortune and character desirous of change, from private considerations; and the fear of the violence and extremity of their measures, seems to unite the men of property and character, with the actual Government. Of the particular Parties existing in this Island, of their numbers, divisions and views, I profess to be entirely ignorant. Discussions or opinions upon those topics are very carefully avoided. The vigilance, and jealousy of the Government under them dangerous - The delicacy of my situation also imposes on me much caution and reserve in my intercourse with Society. Of the truth of this general proposition I am fully convinced. viz That the bulk of the population, consisting of the great agricultural and Commercial interests, (as respects the mere question of self Government, or a dependence upon Spain,) are satisfied with their present political condition, and fearful of change. They enjoy without any very oppressive imposition, or restraint from the actual Government, the advantages of this rich & productive soil, and of this peculiar felicitous situation for trade. The experiment of the constitution here was unfortunate for the advocates of self Government in this Island. For it gave birth to Parties and divisions of the most dangerous tendency, and armed with power Men whose conduct and views spread general alarm. It is however believed -

believed, by the most intelligent persons, (in which opinion I concur) that the consequences of the Continuance of the War between Spain and her late Colonies will have a greater effect towards depriving the Connection of this Island with the parent Nation, ~~than~~ any theoretical or practical evils of the actual Government. Those consequences are already operating with great force. The South American States, have now a naval superiority in those seas; and their depredations on the Commerce of the Island, are frequent and serious. Scarcely a convoy sails without sustaining a heavy loss from capture. It has even been reported here at various times, and is still currently expected, that a Colombian Squadron will soon blockade the Ports. In addition to those evils, the interdiction by Mexico of all Commercial intercourse with this Island produces serious distress. The nature of the situation & productions of this Island consist in rendering a connection and intercourse with Mexico and the Southern States, essential to its prosperity and happiness. When deprived of these, and interrupted also in its Commerce with Spain, - intent with naturally lead it to seek a more advantageous connection. These views you will observe are altogether general and speculative, and destitute of a sufficient basis of facts and observations to entitle them to much respect. Those I frankly admit it has not been in my power to obtain, if attainable at all at a time when fear and caution universally

prevail

prevail. They are merely hazarded to prove to you that I am not inattentive to the subject. Nor unmindful of the interest the Government of the United States feels in the political State of this Island.

I have written with the more freedom and unreserve as this letter is designed to be sent by the United States Brig of War Shark. Captain Newton, which is about to sail for New York.

The Government is apprized of the absence of Mr. Warner American Consul at this Port, the Lad sailed for the United States before my arrival. You may be assured to hear that the affairs of the Consulate suffer no inconvenience from his absence. They are managed by a Vice Consular Agent Mr John Mountain every way competent to the discharge of those duties. He appears to possess as well the confidence of the Spanish Authorities, and their support to as full an extent as they ever allow them to Consuls. as also the confidence & approbation of his Countrymen. I can testimony with pleasure to his industry & fidelity in discharge of the duties of his Office. I do it the more readily as I observe that efforts are making here to induce the Government to make a new appointment on the ground of the absence of Mr Warner.

I regret that my labors in the service in which I am engaged have been thus far unattended with any positive or decided results. I cannot convince myself that my services in future can be of sufficient impor=

tance.

to justify my continuance here, after the business of the Florida Archives and documents, and the termination of the Appeal cases shall have been effected. Nothing but a conviction that I was discharging an important public duty could induce me to remain willingly in this Island much longer. While this conviction remains the President may be assured that I will continue at the Post I have undertaken at every risk, however disagreable to my feelings or detrimental to my interests; but when the subjects above mentioned shall have been disposed of. I do not foresee that the necessity will exist.

I have therefore to request that so soon as those subjects are settled, I may be authorized by the President to return to the United States, in case I should feel convinced that no adequate cause remained for my longer continuance here. In exercising this discretion I shall not suffer my inclination to predominate over the dictates of duty.

I have not yet had the pleasure to receive any communication from the Government since my arrival in this Island. By the Hawk I send a file of the Government Gazette "Diario del Gobierno" to this date.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully Sir
Yr most obed. Servant
Thomas Randall

111

The Hon.ble

The Secretary of State

of the United States.

Randall, Thos. (No 1.) (2 pp.)

Copy of a Letter to the Governor & Capt.n Genrl of Cuba.

Havana May 5 1824.

His Excy.

The Capt.n Genl. of Cuba.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose herewith to your Excy. a certified Copy of the Letter Patent from the President of the United States, appointing me an Agent and Commissary to receive from your Excy. the Archives, and Documents, stipulated to be delivered up to the United States, by the 2nd art. of the Treaty therein referred to.

The Original Letter Patent I had the honor to submit to the consideration of your Excy. at a personal interview yesterday.

I avail myself with pleasure of this occasion to convey to your Excy. assurances of the consideration and respect with which I have the honor to be &c

Thomas Randall

(№ 2)

6/54.

Havana 8th May 1824.

His Excy

The Intendant Gen.l of Cuba.

Sir.

I have the honor to present myself to your Excy as the Agent of the United States specially charged to urge in the name of my Government the Proceedings (Acts or Suits) in the Suit or Suits brought by the Trustees of Creditors of Luis Bellows Grant in the Spanish Courts in the City of Havana against John Hollins a Citizen of the United States in the nature of Attachments on sundry Vessels and Cargoes belonging to the said Hollins. These Proceedings I have been informed were by the order of your Predecessor removed from the Tribunal of the Consulado, and now actually remain in the Office of your Intendancy.

This application I had the honor to make in the first instance to His Excy the Captain General, and was by him advised that to your Authority, and Cognizance the Consideration of the Subject properly belonged; and I was authorized by him to make this Communication to you.

His Excy the Captain General also promised me that he would send to you Copies of the Communications from my Government in reference to this business which I had the honor to present to him. From this Communication of my Government, and the accompanying letter from the Commissioners under the Treaty between the United

States

and His Catholic Majesty. of the 22 July 1819 Your Excellcy. will be informed of the cause and nature of this declaration and of the obligation which is imposed by that Treaty upon the Officers and Tribunals of Spain to accede to it. By it your Excellcy will also perceive how short an interval remains for the delivery of those Proceedings and their transmission to the United States in time to be effectual to the purposes of my Government and of the Party interested.

The urgency of the occasion must therefore be my apology for requesting from your Excellcy. an early answer to this application.

I have the honor to be
Yr. Excellcy. Most Obt. Servt.
Thomas Randall

(No 2)

Translation. from the Intendant General

As the Notary of this Intendancy of the Army has informed me, the Proceedings (Autos) in the suit of Dn Luis Beltran Gonet with Dn John Wallis, which you were pleased to request of me in your letter of the 8th inst are returned to the Tribunal of the Royal Consulado.; there existing only in the Notarial Office those relating to fraud which arose out of the denunciation of Gonet.

Which I manifest to you for your information and in answer to your above mentioned letter

God preserve you &c

Havana 10 th May 1824

Signed

Arambarri.

To the Agents of the U States

Dn J B Randall

(No 4)

Copy

Havana May 11th 1824.

The Excy.

Dn Fco Dionl. Vives

Govr. & Capt. Genl. of Cuba.

Sir.

I have the honor to represent to your Excy. that in answer to an application made by me to the Intendant General for the proceedings (Autos) in the suit of the creditors of Gonet against W. Hollins a letter has this day been received by me from that Officer which informs me that the proceedings in question had been returned to the Office of the Royal Consulado.

I applied for information to the Notary of the Consulado, who denied that the Proceedings had been returned and called for the receipt in evidence of such fact. On application then to the Notary of the Intendancy General I was by him informed that the proceedings had been either returned to the Consulado, or delivered to the Syndic of the Estate of Gonet (Don Placencio Rubio) but that there existed in the Office no receipt for the papers but merely a note of their having been returned.

In this posture of the affair, being entirely at a loss what course to pursue to effect the object of my Government, and being very desirous to communicate it by the return of the Steam Ship to New York

the

the result of my application, I am compelled again to solicit the friendly interposition & aid of your Excy., without which I shall despair of being able to proceed in this confused and embarrassed state of the business.

I make this application with the more confidence from the tender of good offices and assistance which Mr. Rae was pleased to make to me and because I have been advised that over the proceedings of the Consulado, which left the Records are now stated to be Mr. Excy. has proper & ample power & control.

Praying your Excy. to excuse the trouble I give upon you I avail myself of the occasion to repeat the assurances of my consideration & respect &c

Thos. Randall

Translation.

Of this date I have given corresponding information to the Tribunals of the Consulado, and the Intendency that they should furnish to you the copy of the documents of the suit between Dr Luis Gonet and Mr John Hollins; although (since pre que lo es) the above invitation does not oppose the prerogatives of those Tribunals, to which you may recur to the above expressed end.

This is all I can do in obedience to your high recommendation, as any other disposition would be beyond my authority as I manifested to you in my verbal conference.

God preserve you ms Habana 12 May 1824.

Josef

Fr. Dion.o Vives

Mr Dr Thomas Randall
Commiss.r of the United States.

(N.º 6)

Translation

The Sup.t Intendant of the Army in a dispatch dated the 10th inst.t transmits to me what I have now to inform you as follows.

(Here his Excy. copies the Letter of the Intendant General to me of the 10th instant a translation of which is herewith enclosed N.º 3.)

and concludes as follows.

This I transcribe for your information and to a suitable End.

God preserve you &c

Havana 14 May 1824

Signed

Jos. Dion.o Vives

Lieut. Dr Thomas Randall

(No 7)

19

Copy.

Havana 21 May 1824.

His Exc.y

Don Fr. Dion.o Vives

Gov.r & Capt. Gen.l of Cuba

Sir.

In compliance with the suggestion of your Excellency, I proceed to communicate to you the nature and character of the documents which the Government of the United States consider to be embraced under the 2d Article of the Treaty with Spain concluded on the 22 Feb.y 1819; and for which if existing at this place I am instructed to renew their demand.

They may be described under the following Classes

1st All records of individual property in the Floridas, the Royal and other Orders authorizing the Governors of East and West Florida to issue grants to individuals for Lands, Lots and Tenures.

2d Evidence of indemnity offered by Great Britain to her Subjects who might leave their property in East or West Florida, and retire to her Territory after the Cession to Spain.

3d Proclamation of the Spanish Authorities calling on those individuals to come forward and dispose of their Property, or peaceably occupy it within certain periods or the same would be confiscated; and the order of Confiscation thereafter.

The

The Original Records of all Grants made in East or West Florida either by His Catholic Majesty, the Captain Genl. of Cuba or by the Governors of the Floridas respectively -

The Original Records of all Trials and decisions embracing individual property - and lastly.

The Original Records relating to the Execution of Wills and the administration of the Estates of deceased persons -

All those documents I beg leave to remark are considered by the United States in the terms of the Treaty "to relate directly to the Sovereignty and property of the said Provinces." and to be indispensable to the full & correct adjustment, of the titles and claims of individuals to Lands therein.

With respect to the Evidence proposed by my Government of the Existence of such documents at the Havanna and the reasons which induced it to renew its demand for them. I took occasion during the conference you did me the honor to afford me the 7th Inst. to state what I now take the liberty to recall to the recollection of your Excy. - That there is found to be a great deficiency in the usual and necessary Archives and documents of the Provinces; That it has been admitted by Governor Kirby in a letter to Colo. Forbes of the 16 of May 1821. That "various Boxes of Papers of the Archives of that Province had been sent to the Havana in disorder and without having the registering and examining of which with regularity "time"; and lastly I stated that my Government had

been

been officially informed that copies of such documents above described, apparently authenticated by the Governor of Cuba had been brought from the Havana and presented by individuals before the Commissioners of land claims in Florida, as evidences of titles. These facts are known to my Government, and urged in justification of a new application after the failure of the first. It is made under the sanction of a treaty, as well as under the solemn assurance of a Minister of Spain in a letter of the 18th Sept. 1822 that a new and peremptory Royal Order of equal date had been sent to the Captain General of Cuba directing a new search for the documents and for their delivery if found to an Agent of the United States. I trust then such a demand at this time will not be deemed unreasonable, as it certainly was not designed to be disrespectful to any of the Authorities of Spain who have before acted on this subject.

I took occasion in the conversation before alluded to to disclaim on behalf of my Government all such disrespect, or suspicion of unfairness in the conduct of any officers of Spain. Such sentiments would be as foreign from my Government to feel or evince, as they certainly are unmerited by the Honorable & dignified officers of Spain. I also endeavoured to explain the cause of the misunderstanding between the former Agents of my Government, and the Predecessor of Yr. Excy. and to urge some [redacted]

which

soon after his denial of the existence of the documents in question, would render the present application for them not incompatible with the fullest confidence in the honor and veracity of that dignified Chief.

While I regret to be informed by your Excy. that the Royal Order indicated in the letter of the Spanish Minister (Don Ofalgani) of the 18 Sept. 1822 has not been received, I beg leave to repeat my hope that its failure will offer no impediment or delay in the full adjustment of this business; Because of the existence of a previous Royal Order to the same effect of the date of the 24 Oct. 1820 which was brought to the Havana in Apl. 1821 by Col. Forbes.

In conclusion I beg leave to add my confident belief that the renewed examination and search which Your Excy. was pleased to promise to institute, even if it fail to discover the documents desired by my Government will have the good effect not only to satisfy it that no such documents exist, but also of enabling it to expose & defeat the frauds attempted to be practised by individuals claimants to Lands in Florida in producing as evidences of title simulated and spurious documents falsely purporting to be official copies of Originals brought from the Havana

With renewed assurances of my high &c

Thomas Randall

Copy.

Havana 21st May 1824.

This Day.

The Gov.r & Capt.n Gen.l of Cuba.

Sir.

I have the honor to present to Y.r Ex.cy in a Separate Note, as requested a description of certain documents of the Archives of this Island, of which I took occasion verbally to request in the name and by direction of my Government.

They are the following.

A Letter No. 236 of the year 1813 from the Captain General of Cuba to the Governor of Florida, with the documents accompanying, and particularly any communication that may have been made by Gov.r Kindelan to his Spanish Majesty as directed in the last paragraph.

A Letter from Gov.r Kendelan of Florida of the 4th June 1813. the foundation of the above letter from the Captain General.

Authentic copies of these Papers are required by the Commissioners of Land Claims in Florida, to enable them to discharge the duties confided to them, and your Ex.cy will render an important service to my Gov.t in complying with this application.

With the usual assurance of my highest Consideration

Thomas Randall

(№ 9) (831)

Translation.

In spite of the Secrecy which my Predecessor ordered to be made into the Boxes of Papers which were brought from East Florida in 1819. I have ordered them and the most Confidential are to be made by Persons of full confidence and intelligence of the result of which I will advise you in due season.

God preserve you &c.

Havana 26 May 1824.

Signed Fr. Dioz. Vivs.

Jn. D. Thomas Randall.

Copies and Translations of
Correspondence with the Authorities
of Cuba. Nos. 1. to 11.

with Thomas Randall's letter of 21 June 1824.

(No. 10)

23

Copy

Havana May 20 1824.

His Excy.

Dn. Miguel Gaston

Lieut. Gen.l of Marine

Island of Cuba.

Sir

In compliance with the verbal request of your Excy. of this morning I have the honor to enclose you herewith, a list of all the cases of capture of American vessels made by the Privateers of the Island of Porto Rico, under the various pretexts of Blockade or otherwise which have come to the knowledge of my Government.

In the three last of those cases only, the prize vessels have been actually brought up to this Island. In the other cases the owners of the vessels and cargoes condemned were either deprived of the right of appeal or removed without security being required of the captors and on such conditions as to render the right useless.

I had the honor to express verbally to your Excy. this morning and now take the liberty to repeat, that my Government has never ceased to protest against the principles and practices involved in these captures, both to the Supreme Government of Spain, and to the authorities of Porto Rico. The captors have sought to justify them under the decrees of Blockade by Gen.l Morales over the coasts of Tierra Firma, and under ordinances of

Spain

Spain in vindicating the Commerce of ~~Spain~~ foreigners with its colonies.
It is not now necessary to discuss the legality of those Decrees
of blockade, or the actual existence of the Ordinances.
It will be sufficient to state that both the United States
and Great Britain, have always denied their legality and
force, and protested against their application to the exis-
ting state of the Commercial and political world; and that
Spain has yielded to the justice of the principles they have
contended for, and has by a Royal Order of the date of the
21 December 1822, revoked them. It is also known
that Great Britain has obtained from Spain a prom-
ise of full indemnity for the losses and injuries sustain-
ed by her subjects under those Decrees.

During the unfortunate state of confusion and
civil dissentions in the Peninsular, the Province of
the Island of Porto Rico, availed themselves of the tem-
porary ~~bil~~ alienation of the Royal authority over that
distant Province to commit under the pretext of
those Blockades & Ordinances the grossest robbery
and outrages upon the fair and usual commerce of
the United States. Full accounts of those proceedings
and of the, and of the amount of losses and injuries
sustained by its citizens are in possession of my
Government. The United States have officially declared
that both the Supreme Government of Spain and the
Island of Porto Rico will be held responsible for full
indemnity for all condemnations made under those

pretexts.

privately, and for the amount of all losses sustained by the litigants, in consequence of such captures.

This declaration I am instructed to make to yr. Excellcy. for the information of all concerned that they may be aware of the views of my Government and of the responsibility under which they act.

In making this Declaration I but represent the sentiments of my Government, when I add that it fully entire confidence that the Authorities and Tribunals of this Island, will correct and reverse the irregular proceedings of the inferior courts of Porto Rico, and so far as depends upon them remove all subject of complaint. The fact is well known to my Government and duly appreciated, that no commissions were issued from this Island, to authorize the injurious practices agt. the commerce and rights of citizens of the U States.

I have in conclusion to request in the name of my Government, that so soon as the Decrees are pronounced by the Tribunals of this Island on the cases of appeal from Porto-Rico, copies of the same may be furnished to me for the information of my Government.

With very great consideration I have

I have the honor to be &c

Thomas Randall

(No. 11.)

Translation

Havana 24 May 1824.

Col. D. Thomas Randall

Sir.

Concerning what you manifested to me in your letter of today and note which accompanies it, relative to the depredations of the United States which have been taken in these last years by Spanish Privateers armed in the Island of Puerto Rico, and upon which you found reclamations, I have referred to the proper Offices, suitable orders that on the views of them, they proceed by legal paths correspondent to justice. This is what I have to say to you in answer.

I have the honor to be &c

Signed

Miguel Tacon.

Randall, Thos.

35

Recd. 16 July

Havana July 1st. 1824.

The Hon.le

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State.

Sir.

My last letter to you was dated the 21st and was despatched by the United States Brig Spark — Captain Newton via New York. Since that period, an occurrence has taken place, which having been the subject of a correspondence between the Captain General and myself, I deem proper to be communicated to the President of the United States.

The affair arose out of the detention of the Brig Mors Capt. Gordon of Portland by the Officers of this Port, to answer in damages for having contravened the Regulations of Spain in the transportation of certain Passengers (Spanish subjects) to this Island. The accompanying letter from Capt. Newton and myself to the Governor of the Island together with the enclosed statement of Capt. Gordon will put you in possession of the facts of the case, and of our reasons for interfering to effect the release of the vessel. Capt. Newton had been applied to in the first instance, and had determined to make the application before I was informed of the case. He however consulted me before he wrote to the Governor, and his letter met with my approbation.

Capt. Newton having departed on the 22d ult.o without

receiving

receiving any answer to his letter, and the Vessel being
still detained to the great detriment of her owners,
I was earnestly solicited by Capt.n Gordon, and by Mr.
Wallace his Consignee, to renew the application in
their behalf to the Governor and Captain General.

I felt some reluctance to add another subject
of complaint and reclamation, to those already submit-
ted to the Authorities of this Island, and which are
yet unsettled, from a fear that it might cause still
greater delay and embarrassment in their adjust-
ment. But upon a careful examination of my Powers
and instructions, I felt satisfied that I was not at
liberty to withhold my assistance in this case.

My reasons for this conclusion were the following.
My Letter of Appointment of the 15th of April 1823 containing
the following words. "You have been appointed by the
"President of the United States their Agent for Com-
"merce and Seamen to perform at the Islands of
"Porto Rico and Cuba, and in the Ports on the Spanish
"Main such services as shall be given you in charge
"by Letters of instructions which will be delivered to
"you herewith, and transmitted to you hereafter from
"this Department" In a letter of the 21st April 1823
from Your Department, is contained the following instruc-
tion. "You will transmit to this Department any of-
"ficial proceedings which may have taken place, in
"cases in which Citizens of the United States are con-
cerned

"And if in any case you can obtain by application to
"the Authorities civil or military, the release either
"from detention or from condemnation, you will use
"all endeavours consistent with the respect, always
"due to the existing authorities to that effect"

The connection of this paragraph with the ante-
cedent remarks induced me at first to hesitate
in forming a judgment, whether it did not confine
my authority to cases of Capture and detention by
Privateers under the Decrees of blockade by General
Morales, and Spanish Ordinances interdicting the com-
merce of foreigners with her colonies. But the terms
of the last clause are so general and absolute as to
decide my opinion that it required a more extensive
application.

These explanatory remarks are made, because
it will be seen by the inclosed letter from the Captain
General of the 26th ult. in answer to mine of the 25th
that my application was very ungraciously received.
The Captain General refuses to recognize any power
in me to interfere with such a subject, and distinctly
cautions me from concerning myself in matters
not included in my Commission. I felt it my duty not
by my silence to acquiesce in the justice of those im-
putations and immediately answered in a letter of
the 26th ult. vindicating the course I had pursued.

The whole subject is now submitted to the

consideration

consideration of the President, with an anxious hope on my part, that he will not find any thing to disapproove of either in the fact, or manner of my interference in this business.

I flatter myself that my application has not been unattended with benefit to Capt.n Gordon, for immediately after the receipt of my last letter, the Capt.n General sent for the proceedings, and the day after, signed an order remitting the damages and costs, and directing the libel to be released. Thus the Parties are relieved from the unpleasant alternative of abandoning the libel or of entering into an expensive and tedious litigation. The first step in either alternative would have been the payment of about 70 Dollars to ascertain simply the state of the business; for thus far the proceedings had been ex parte. Capt.n Gordon not knowing when he answered the Interrogatories that his own conduct was investigating in a penal action.

It will be observed by the letter of Capt.n Newton that he makes a suggestion, that the forcible seizure of those Papengers from under the protection of the Flag of the United States, was in violation of the laws and usages of Nations. This topic I abstained from in my letter to the Captain General, although I deemed it of some importance. The Statement

Enclosed

enclosed will enable the President to determine whether the Sovereign rights of the United States have been infringed by this act of the authority of this Island.

In my last letter I had the honor to present to you a detailed account of the progress and present condition of the several subjects confided to my agency. Since that period no new information has been received in relation to either of those subjects

I have not since my arrival been honored with any communication from the Government.

Mr. Mountain Vice Consul of the United States at this Port has just been informed by a respectable Merchant of this place, that there are some Piratical Boats or Vessels laying off Matanzas, by which the sailing of a number of Merchant Vessels (now ready for Sea) is prevented. The information is brought by a letter from Matanzas, which also contains a request from one of the Persons interested, that Mr Mountain would advise some American Man of War of the fact, that relief might be afforded them. Unfortunately there is no Vessel of War of the United States now here, but the intelligence will not be neglected.

This letter will be sent by the Brig Kaden Capt. R. Williams which will sail early tomorrow for Charleston.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Your most obedient humble Servant

Thomas Randall

Copy.

U. S. Brig Spark.

Port of Havana June 2d 1824.

His Excy

The Governor & Capt. Genal

of Cuba.

Sir.

Have the honor to enclose to your Excy the Statement of Capt. Gordon of the American Brig Ellors of Portland, complaining of certain proceedings of the Officers of this Port, in relation to his vessel; He has also solicited my assistance as an Officer of the U States navy to extricate him from his difficulties.

After a careful examination of the enclosed statement and into the facts of the case, I am satisfied that the damages and costs claimed from Capt. Gordon by the Officers of this Port, are altogether unauthorized and oppressive. Captain Gordon acted throughout with candor and good faith, and had no intention of violating the Municipal Regulations of Spain. It appears that he cleared out from Cadiz for a Port in the U States, where he designed to land the Passengers, of course when they came on board no passports could have been required. His bringing them to this Port was in consequence of a new destination given to the Vessel. He merely stopped here to land some freight & seamen at Gibraltar with no intention to land his Passengers; on the contrary they were forcibly taken from on board by the authorities of this Island. I take the liberty to remark

That

that this forcible seizure of Persons from under the protection of an American flag, under the circumstances above stated, appears to me to be an act not justified by the usages of Nations, and as such I shall deem it my duty to report it to my Government for its consideration

With respect to the claim for costs against the Master of the Moro I trust your Excy will deem it unjust, and issue the necessary orders for his release.

I take the liberty further to observe that my vessel is on the eve of sailing for the U States and only waits the answer of your Excy to this communication: this must be my apology for expressing a desire that your Excy may find it convenient to furnish me with an early reply.

I have
the honor
to be
Your Excys
most obt Servt
John J Newton
Com[d] U S. Brig Hawk.

Copy

Hon Excy. Havana June 25th 1824.

Dr Sir Obt Svt

Gov & Capt Genl of Cuba.

Sir.

Capt Gordon of the American Brig Helen has furnished me with a statement of the detention of his vessel by the Officers of this Port, and with a copy of the letter which Capt Newton of the United States Brig Hawk had the honor to address to your Excy on this subject.

The necessary departure of Capt Newton for the U. States before the conclusion of the business, renders it my duty under the general powers and instructions conferred on me by my Government, to draw the attention of your Excy for the remission of the charges and claims made by the Officers of the Port against the above mentioned vessel.

The Hero is detained at great inconveniences and loss. The Capt is very desirous of sailing, having a freight ready to be shipped, but which he cannot receive until the decision of Your Excy on the case of his vessel. He has expressed to me his determination to abandon his vessel to the Port Officers, rather than to pay the claim in question and to [redacted] apply to his Government for redress.

I forbear to offer any reasons to your Excy in addition to those stated by Capt Newton, and those which naturally arise from the facts presented, to prove

the

the extreme hardship, and oppression which would result from the enforcement of this claim, in a case wherein no infraction of the laws of Spain was designed. I would respectfully suggest that if an offence was actually committed, when it is proved to have been involuntary, it is surely a case for indulgence on the part of the Authorities and not for rigorous exactions. The first course will be consistent with the friendly relations which happily subsist between our respective Governments; and will moreover have the tendency to encourage and foster the valuable commercial intercourse between the United States and this Island by demonstrating the security with which it may be prosecuted.

I shall therefore hope early to receive an early reply to this communication.

I am Sir with great consideration

Your most obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

[redacted]

Copy.

Thomas Randall Esq

Havana 25th June 1824

Sir.

The sailing of Capt. Newton of the United States Brig Shark has placed me under the necessity of applying to you for that assistance which I as an American Citizen claimed from Capt. Newton.

I enclose a translation of the interrogatories made to me on the 1st inst. in the Office of the Lieut. Governor together with my reply thereto, also copy of the note passed by Capt. Newton to His Excy the Captain General, and which now proceed to state the case of the Brig Aliso under my command.

I arrived here on the 31 of May last from Gibraltar when the principal part of my Cargo was taken in. Had four Passengers on board all of whom were Spaniards; one of whom was a Cabin & the three others were Steerage Passengers of low Characters I knew nothing further than that they deported themselves well on the passage. Three more came on board my vessel as follows. In February last I sailed from Barcelona in Spain for Cadiz having on board twenty seven passengers all of whom landed in Cadiz. One of them a Mr Borges, re-embarked agreeable to his original intention; on my leaving Cadiz for Gibraltar, the other three passengers came on board my vessel first in Cadiz, when I cleared my vessel for New Orleans; after clearing out at the Custom House I had freight

Offered

offered me in Gibraltar, provided I would go there to take it in. The three passengers whom I took in Cadiz were put on board my vessel by my Consignee W Pedro Lasaletta a Spanish Subject, acting American Consul at that Port; with him they made their engagement, and receiving their from him I felt secure that I was acting correctly nor did I enquire whether they had or had not Passports nor do I now know whether they were provided with them or not. The first mentioned passenger W Borges has a passport, granted by the French Authorities in Barcelona the place being then in their possession. On my arrival in Gibraltar, my passengers all landed and when I was about to leave, they came on board. It was my intention to touch at Havana land such part of my cargo as was on freight, and proceed thence to New Orleans unless some advantageous freight should offer for a different port, and with this understanding the three last mentioned steerage passengers were in case I went to New Orleans to continue with me. and if not I had agreed to assist them in procuring a passage there.

On arriving in the Port of Havana the Government took from my vessel the four passengers, sent them to prison, where they were kept some time and then shipped them off for Spain, and there is now a decree in existence detaining the sailing of my vessel until I pay the expenses caused by the imprison=

Merit.

and examination, of those Men, amounting to about 240 Dollars, at the same time claiming that I shall pay the expense of transporting those Men to Spain. In Consequence of this my vessel is detained and I am daily suffering a heavy Expense and cannot receive Cargo on board, which is waiting for me, for fear of subjecting having to land it again; under these circumstances having acted throughout correctly, not having attempted to violate any known law or Regulation, but having complied in all instances with the Regulations of the Ports I have visited, and having come to this from an English Port, I cannot but view the Measures as oppressive, and unjust and the Duties such as I cannot comply with. And I now apply to you for such assistance, as you being an Agent of the U States Government can consistently give me.

In addition to what I have already said I would observe that Borges is owing me One Hundred and Ten Dollars part of which is for Money lent him in Cadiz and sent for his passage.

Signed

M. L. Gordon.

43

Copy of a paper enclosed to me by Capt.
Gordon, containing a translation of the Interrogatories put
to him -

Interrogatory 1st. When did you arrive at this Port, in what
vessel, and with what object. Answer. I arrived in
this Port yesterday 31 of May 1814 in the American Brig
Mars, with the object of discharging the greater part of
her Cargo, or freight, and if I can find return freight here
or to any other Port will take it, but if not will pro-
ceed to New Orleans.

Interrogatory 2nd. Did you bring passengers on board said vessel, from
from whence came they and their names. Answer. I
bring 4 of which one (whose name is Antonio Borges,
came on board at Barcelona from whence I took him
to Cadiz with 26 more, but those remained there, and
only Borges continued in the vessel; the other three
brothers and they came on board at Cadiz, their names
are Dn Vincente and another I believe Orca, but I do
not recollect any thing else. There were therefore
passengers and Borges Cabin passenger.

Interrogatory 3d. Did those four Passengers come on board
Brig Mars with their proper passports. Answer
Borges shewed me his passport given by a French
Authority which governed at Barcelona at the time
he sailed from thence - which was in the month of
February 1814, and when I arrived at Cadiz, the said
Borges was not allowed to Land until he produced
said passport; and as to the other three I dont know

to whether

whether they had passports or not, it was left to my Consignee the American Consul to agree with them concerning their passage.

Interrogatory 4.th Did you know what kind of men they were and what was the destination of the One in Barcelona, & the others in Cadiz. Answer. All that I can say is, that they have behaved themselves with great delicacy on the passage, and I observed that the three brothers paid great attention to learn the English language for it appears it was their intention to establish themselves in the United States; they inquired which would be the best place to fix their residence, and also respecting the temperature of the climate whether it was not the same as that of Calcutta.

Interrogatory 5.th For what Port did they engage their passage. Answer For this Port, but the three brothers talked always of going to New Orleans or some other Port of the U States, and the Consul seeing them men of Money and being honest men desired me that in case I should go to New Orleans to take them with me, but would not persuade them, to recommend them to some Captain of my acquaintance going that way.

Interrogatory 6.th Do you know their motive for leaving Barcelona & Cadiz to come here. Answered I only know that Barges was coming on Commercial affairs, and that he brought letters of recommendation

recommendation

to Roig or Roig, and of the three Roys. He then turned to be a Man of Letters, and said he would learn the English language in the United States and teach the Spanish there, so as to earn a subsistence, or Embark in any other business so as to gain a livelihood -

45

Translation.

By your Letter of the date of yesterday I am informed that Capt. Gordon of the Brig Eliza has furnished you with an exposition upon the causes of the detention of his Vessel in this Port, and a copy of a Note which Capt. Newton of the United States Brig Hawk had directed to me upon the same particular, and that by his necessary departure before the conclusion of the business it is incumbent upon you as a duty under the general powers and instructions which have been conferred upon you by your Government, to renew the said application.

In consequence, it concerns me to have to manifest to you, that this Government acknowledges no faculty or authority in you conformably with your Commission for such a demand, and only for the reclamation of certain documents which are said to exist here relative to the Archives of the Floridas; and to be obliged to caution you to abstain in future from interfering (de mezclarse) in matters which are not necessary nor included in your Commission; and allowing that upon the reclamation of Capt. Gordon judicial proceedings are carrying on he may apply to the corresponding Tribunal in due form secure, that they will hear him, doing him complete justice if he have it. This is what I have to say in reply to your above mentioned letter of yesterday.

I renew the assurances of my high consideration

Signed Havana 26 June 1824.

Fes. Dion Vives

Copy.

Havana 26 June 1824.

His Exc.y

D.r Fr. Dion.o Vives

Gov.r & Capt.n Gen.l of Cuba.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Exc.y Note of this day, in answer to mine of yesterday in relation to the detention of the Brig Aloro by the Officers of this Port.

While I rejoice to learn from the note of your Excell.y that judicial proceedings are carrying on in relation to this subject before the proper Tribunal from which complete justice may be expected. I beg leave to make a few remarks in explanation of my conduct in this business, and to satisfy your Exc.y that I have not interfered unnecessarily nor without authority in this matter.

Your Exc.y is already aware that the commission in relation to the Florida Archives is not the only service enjoined on me by my Government. I now take occasion to inform you, that the detention of the Persons or property of American citizens is a subject expressly referred to my agency as will appear by the following extract from the Instructions given me by my Government.

"You will transmit to this Department any offi="
"cial proceedings, which may have taken place"

in

" in cases in which citizens of the United States or "
" their property, may been concerned, and if in any "
" case, you can obtain by application to the Authori:" "
" ties civil or Military the release of either from "
" detention, or from condemnation, You will use "
" all endeavours consistent with the respect always "
" due to the existing Authorities to that effect"

It is true that my Government did not think proper to furnish me with a formal Letter Patent, containing this Authority, but the letter from which the above extract is taken, is an official document from the Department of State of the United States, which I offer to exhibit to the inspection of your Excy.

It is certainly exclusively for your Excy to determine what weight or consideration you may be pleased to give to my representations made under this authority, but your Excy I trust will admit, that it was not competent for me on the formal application of a citizen of the United States, to refuse to lend him my public aid in a case expressly enjoined by those Instructions. and ~~before~~ I was apprized that such a course would be disagreeable to your Excy.

In conclusion I will add, that as the caution which your Excy is pleased to give me. "to abstain in future from concerning myself in Matters which are not necessary nor included in my commission." has not been disregarded by me thus far, so it will

be

be duly observed in future.

I have to you Excy the expression of my consideration &c.

Thomas Randall

Randall, Thos.

47

Rec.d 17.th

Havana July 5 1824.

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State.

Sir.

The last letter which I had the honor to address to you, was dated the 1st inst.t, and dispatched via Charleston, by the Brig Trader, which sailed the ensuing day. In that letter I advised you that information had been received at this place of the appearance of the Pirates off the Port of Matanzas, by which the sailing of a number of Merchant Vessels had been prevented. Recent captures made by those Pirates off that Port, confirm the truth of the above report.

Two American Vessels, are certainly known to have been captured & plundered, and there are reports of the capture of three others. Of the former the Brig Castor of Portland Capt.n Hood, has arrived at this port. This Vessel was captured entering the Bay of Matanzas by seven Men in an open Boat; was taken thence to Port "Escondido" in the neighborhood where the Pirates were joined by a large party from the shore with Boats and horses, with the assistance of which, the Brig was plundered of every thing portable or valuable, including all the clothes of the Capt.n and his men. The cargo being principally Lumber, the amount taken from the Brig was by no means considerable. The Capt.n and his men

were

were as usual most severely and cruelly beaten. The Boat had previously captured on the same morning the Brig Betsy Dove of Newport, and after plundering the vessel, and casting off her Boats, they set her on fire in several places and abandoned her. The crew succeeded in extinguishing the fire, and thus preserved themselves from the horrid death designed for them by their merciless Captors.

It is reported here that a Brig called the Ichen from an Eastern Port of the United States, a Ship, the name and description of which are not stated, and a Schooner from New York with a valuable cargo of dry goods have also been captured within a few days by the Pirates. I have not yet been able to assure at any doubt and certain authority for this last report which is however generally credited here. I thought it my duty to give you the earliest intelligence of those depredations, however imperfect in its details.

The temporary absence of the United States Cruizers from their usual station, has emboldened those men to renew their Piracies. The necessity which has caused this very short and casual absence of the whole American Squadron from the neighborhood of Matanzas and this Port is much to be regretted. Very great alarm prevails in this place among the Masters of Vessels, several of which are fearful of putting to sea without convoy.

A British Cutter (the Grecian) has just arrived at this Port. Mr Montan our Vice Consul to Algiers has instructed his Commander to make a short cruize to Alicante in pursuit of those Pirates. He promised to sail this evening with that Object.

This letter will be sent by the Steam Ship Robt Fulton which will sail for New York early tomorrow morning. I regret that the short stay of this vessel prevents me from enlarging my letter on this very interesting topic as I had designed. I am now endeavoring to collect all the facts I could arrive at, in relation to the Piracies committed from this Island, and shall take occasion to write more fully upon the subject, by the earliest safe conveyance.

I have the honor to be

with the greatest consideration & respect

Sir

Yr most Obt Servt

Thomas Randall

Randall, Thos
Recd 31 July.

Havana July 14th 1824

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State

Sir.

I had the honor to write to you last by the Steam Ship Robert Fulton via New york, of the 5th inst. In this letter I gave information of the capture of the Brig Castor of Portland, and of the Betsy Done of New-Port by the Pirates off Matanzas, and of the reported capture of several other American vessels. Since that date we have certain intelligence of the capture of the Schooner Mercator by a Piratical vessel off Port Escondido. It is derived from a passenger (a Spaniard) who as far as we yet know is the only person who has been permitted to escape from the hands of the captors. He calls himself Dn. Joseph Manuel Rey, and on the 9th inst. made a Deposition before the Brit. Consul of the U States at this Port, of which the following is the substance.

"That he was a Passen-
"ger on board the Sch.r Mercator Henry Allen master, from
"New york, bound to this Port of Havana, that on the 3d day
"of this present month, the said vessel was boarded when
"near the Port of Escondido on this coast, by a Shark built,
"four topsail schooner with about forty armed men, who
"took possession of said Mercator, confined this Deponent in
"the cabin (after first suspending him by the thumbs and

Thus

" them by the Deck, to extort information where the money was "
" to be found on board) for three days, when they sent this "
" deponent on shore alone near Camrioca to the Windward "
" of Matanzas - for the three days this deponent was con- "
" fined he had no communication with any one and knows "
" not what was done with Capt. Atkins and his crew "

It is greatly to be feared that those unfortunate Men have all been destroyed by the Pirates, a fate from which the above named passenger was only saved by being a Spaniard.

From further information derived from this passenger I apprehend there were on board the Mercator both public and private letters for me sent from the State Department through the Collectors Office of New York. I mention this that should the fact be so, and the communications of importance, duplicates may be despatched to me.

The United States Brig Grampus Comr. Stout arrived off this port on the 7th and sent in her boat with an Officer. The Grampus is from the Coast of Mexico, and is bound to New-York. The Consul wrote to Capt. Stout informing him of the appearance of the Pirates off Matanzas, and advising him to proceed to that place. I urged the same in a Despatch by the Lieut. who was sent on shore. The Grampus sailed the same night, and I take it for granted has proceeded to the Seine of those depredations.

It will thus be seen to what a fearful Land

so short an intreval of the absence of our Vessels of War, has em-
boldened this horrible system of piracy again to dwell, dem-
onstrating conclusively that though rendered inert for a
time by the pressure of external force, it has continued
to exist in full vitality, and ready to be exerted, the moment
that pressure was removed. Such it is feared will ever be
the case until Measures of greater severity on the part of
the United States shall be resorted to. I hope the importance
of the subject will serve as an excuse for me, if I attempt
somewhat at large to explain the nature and extent of
this evil, and respectfully to suggest the only remedy
which appears to me to be effectual and adequate to
its entire suppression.

It may be now assumed as an undoubted fact that
the crime of piracy is not limited to the Mariners who
are the active agents in its perpetration, but has advo-
cates, and partizans in a very numerous class of the Inhab-
itants of this Island. Of the latter class many have a direct
concern in the equipment and arming of those Vessels, and
a participation in their plunder. Others amongst the
Planters on the Coast, and the Merchants are indirectly con-
cerned in the great profit derived from purchasing the
property plundered by them. Besides these persons they
conceive. The Spaniards of this Island generally ob-
serve with perfect apathy, and some even with pleasure
these depredations against the Commerce of the United
States. For it is not a little extraordinary, that one may

hear

han in the Straits of Matanzas, and even of this kind, this most odious crime warmly defended on principle by men of property, and deemed respectable here. They urge in its defence, that it is but a retaliation for the conduct of citizens of the U. States in capturing under the Insurgent Flag the property of Spaniards. They say that the conduct of the people of Regla and Matanzas, and other places from which the Piracy spun, is no worse than that pursued in certain places in the United States, which they name. Many of the Spanish Merchants have sustained immense losses from captures made by Colombian and other vessels of War, and Privateers, commanded and partly manned by citizens of the United States; and they assert, that the conduct of our Government & its citizens, in this particular, is no less reprehensible than that which is charged against the Spaniards in respect to piracy. I shall not stop to shew the utter absence of truth in the charge made against the Government of the U. States - and although I enter by no means my approval of the conduct of those Americans, who for the sake of plunder, have engaged in the War between Spain and her Colonies. I do not think it necessary to point out the great difference of magnitude in the respective practices. I merely mention the opinions of those Spaniards, to give semblance and probability to the sentiments they utter, which would otherwise

from

from their extreme perversity and immorality, be
scarcely credited. The moment a prize to the Pirates
arrives on the coast, persons from the interior throng to the
spot to share in, or purchase the plunder, as in the late
case of the Brig Castor. The property soon finds its way
into the cities, and too often, unjustly, by the advantages of
the traffic. But some days past, the Anchor and Cable
of the Brig Castor plundered about the beginning of this
month, was found on board an Am.n vessel in this port,
the Capt.n of which purchased it from the Patron of a
a Dogger or boat in this Island. Two years ago it was
common for persons to cross the harbour to Regla, publickly to buy property from the Pirates. Allegations of
this kind have been repeatedly made in the U States
and generally credited, and it is believed that the Records
of your Department, contain sufficient proof of their
truth. Here they are matters of notoriety, and generally
credited.

A publication appeared in the Charleston Courier
on or about Septem.r 1823, in relation to this subject, con-
taining a detail of the transactions at Regla. A suit
was brought in the Court of Carolina by a Spaniard of
Regla against the Editor of the Courier for a libel, in
charging him with being concerned with the Pirates.
A Commission has been sent to this place to examine
witnesses in behalf of the Defendant, in justification
of the publication, and the Commission is now open

Yr

The subject is much talked of, and I have been told by some of the Commissioners, and by many of the most respectable Merchants of this place, that every allegation in the Libel charged as libellous is unquestionably true and susceptible of full proof, if Witnesses dare to declare the whole truth. But such is the fear of the Prosecutor and his associates, that it will be difficult to find a Witness bardy enough, to expose himself to the vengeance of those Men, by disclosing at this place what he knows of their practices. The Publication is said here to be a true but faint and imperfect Sketch of the horrible transactions of the period to which it alludes. For that reason I mention it that it may be referred to for further information. I beg leave for further confirmation of the opinions above advanced, to mention one other fact, which I received from a Gentleman of unquestionable veracity.

A representation was made to the Captain Gen.l, about the period of the greatest activity amongst the Pirates, that a large sum of money in Dobloons which had been plundered from a Boston vessel, had been traced to Rigla, and could there be found and identified. Information had been given by one of the Pirates concerned in the Capture. After instituting an examination the Capt.n General

sent

ant for the Claimant and informed him, "that he feared all Rigla would be found to be implicated in the robbery, and that in the present disturbed and critical condition of the Island, he dared not push the investigation further." and to the affair ended.

While these those practices so far from finding a correction or check in the moral feeling of the community, ~~[illegible]~~ are rather countenanced and aided by it. it is obvious, that a Government of even greater energy and virtues, than that of this Island, would be scarcely adequate to their suppression. But with the exception of the present Chief of this Government, and a very few of its highest officers, it is more than suspected, that the great majority of those public agents, are either indifferent, or feel an interest adverse to its suppression. Participating in the general prejudices of their country men, they have also a pecuniary interest, in occasionally conniving at those robberies, and in protecting their perpetrators from the hands of justice. I dare not have credited these charges but upon the most undoubted testimony. Various facts have been mentioned to me, by resident Merchants of the highest respectability of this place, as being known to them personally, when the Officers of the customs, and others, have got possession of property known to have been captured by Pirates. and have applied the whole

or

or the greater part to their own use; preventing the legal owners from all chance of identifying, and recovering their property; when they have for long rewards, suffered persons known to the Pirates, to escape from justice. The case of the cargo of the Jamaica boat's longer to this place, which is referred to the Charleston Courier above mentioned, was told to me as an undoubted fact, before I had read it from that Paper. Now when a few of the Pirates have had the singular ill fortune to be arrested and confined in prison - they either manage to escape by bribery. or they are confined without trial, until their names and offences have been forgotten, and their crimes no longer susceptible of proof.

In aid of these moral causes, there exist others of a local and physical character, favourable to Piracy. The numerous Ports of this Island only partially visited by, and known to Strangers, afford them every facility to secrete their plunder, and evade the most vigorous pursuit.

Whatever disposition there the present Governor may evince to suppress this crime (and from the information I have received he has used every exertion), his efforts unaided by the Executive Officers, by the Tribunals, and by public Opinion, will be powerless and ineffectual. Nor can more satisfactory results be anticipated from the application of the most active

system.

system of mere external preventive measures, such as have been hitherto resorted to by the United States. If experience had not conclusively settled the question, the facts and reasons above stated would seem sufficient to demonstrate *a priori* the inefficacy of those measures of prevention.

Notwithstanding the large armament maintained by the United States on this Coast, attended with a profuse waste of treasure, and with the sacrifice of the health & lives of so many of their gallant crews, the only result has been, the temporary and partial interruption of the practice, while the source and cause of the mischief has not been reached.

This naturally brings me to an enquiry as to the means adequate to its suppression; and the obvious result from what has been stated is, that the remedy to be effectual, must be applied directly to the origin and seat of the evil. Public opinion in this Island must be changed, and as this cannot be effected by reason or the voice of justice, it must be corrected by force; the Authorities must be stimulated by counter motives of interest or fear, to the exercise of greater vigilance; and to measures of more rigour and severity against delinquents. These salutary changes in my opinion can only be produced by a rigid system of reprisals and hostilities, on the part of the U. States, against Spanish property, and particularly that belonging to this Island. This plan is by no means new but has been often suggested, and I am informed by the Committee of "foreign relations" at the last

Session

despion of Congress - I have not read the Report, but am told, the Committee forbear to recommend its immediate adoption, but advise the awaiting the result of an application to the Supreme Government of Spain. If the views above presented of the causes and extent of the evil be correct, it is to be feared that as at present circumstanced, Spain can do but little to remedy it. It is not believed that she is able or willing to Spare an adequate force to effect the Object. New Orders may be issued to the Authorities here, enjoining greater vigilance, and energy, but it cannot be conceived that any greater sanction or obligation can be thereby superadded, to those which ought already to exist. Those have however been insufficient thus far.

I am not unaware that the Executive without the sanction of Congress is incompetent to apply the above remedy. The remarks are made to impress the principle I wish to inculcate, & which I hope will be concurred in, that this remedy must in all probability be eventually resorted to - and thus to induce corresponding preparations.

The Reprisals should not be confined to the capturing of the foreign Commerce of the Island, and its Coasting trade, but should also extend to the levying of contributions, on all places and Towns on the Coast, (when-ever available) at which piratical vessels are fitted out or received. The advantages of this would be,

That

that every part of the community would partake of the distress caused by those retaliatory measures. Those participating directly or indirectly, would be detected and exposed, by their exasperated Country men and be made to disgorge their plunder. Those merely indifferent or favorable to the crimes of those Pirates, would through interest & fear be incited to discountenance them. The Planters would suffer by the capture of their produce in the coasting vessels; the Merchants and others by the contributions levied on their property, and by the capture and interruption of their Commerce; the Authorities would be incited to redoubled vigilance & vigour; and receiving the cooperation of the Inhabitants would in a short time render the pursuit of this practice hazardous & fruitless. For when it shall have been seen that for every capture made by Pirats from this Island, strict & full retribution will be exacted from the Inhabitants, there can be no doubt that the great mass of the community will combine to rid themselves of the cause of this infliction. That their combined efforts would be adequate to its extinction no reasonable doubt can be entertained. If a rigorous Blockade of the Ports of this Island was at the same time established, the distress produced as well to Individuals, as to the Government in cutting off its only source of supply and ordinary revenue, would soon bring

all

all Parties to a proper sense of their true interest and duty.

It would be unnecessary and presumptuous in me to offer seriously to prove, that such a course on the part of the United States would be fully justified by every principle of reason, and of international law, applicable to the subject. The facts of the case prove that a large part of the people of this Island are engaged in hostilities of the most cruel and oppressive character agt. the property and lives of citizens of the United States, without the intervention or ability on the part of the Supreme Government of Spain or the local authorities to put a stop to it. Nothing short of this remedy can afford the correction, which is therefore justified on the great principles of humanity & self defence.

As to the amount of force adequate to effect those objects - it is believed that a Ship of the line and a Frigate or two Frigates with some smaller vessels, armed with the requisite powers to make reprisals, would in the course of a few months, give an entire check to it. Upon this subject however the President can doubtless be better informed by the Naval Officers of the United States.

It is with feelings of more than mere diffidence that I have ventured from a sense of duty to submit with freedom these ideas to the Government - I claim for them no originality, for

they

they are common to all the intelligent men with whom I have conversed, who are acquainted with the transactions of this Island for the last few years; and I shall be better satisfied if they are found to coincide with the opinions already formed by the Executive of the United States on this interesting subject.

I have just been informed by Capt.n Paine of the United States Sch.r Neutral (arrived yesterday,) that he visited Port Escondido and its vicinity, since the period of the capture made off that place, but could find no Pirates - From the evidences of their practices existing there, he will be induced to repeat his visit - This shews with what facility the Pirates are enabled to dispose of their prizes and consider pur-suit. The United States Ship John Adams Capt.n Dallas arrived in this Port the 12th inst.t from the Bay of Mexico, and will have it for Philadelphia this day or tomorrow. I hasten to close this Letter to be despatched by that Ship.

On the 7th inst.t the French Frigate the Jean d'Arc arrived at this Port from Martinique, St Jago de Cuba & Jamaica, and will depart in a few days. The Commander of this Ship Mr Duportet is believed to be charged with certain nego-ciation with the Authorities of this Island, the precise character of which is not certainly known, and this has given rise to various conjectures. From the best information I have received they relate to the Capture of a French Ship, made during the late War on the Peninsula, and brought to this Island, in the Tribunals of which the suit still depends.

Her arrival has given rise also to various other Rumours and conjectures. The Spaniards here confidently assert, that it is preparatory to the Landing of a large French and Spanish force to this place to aid in the subjugation of the Insurgent Provinces. They estimate the French force to be sent at 10.000 men and the Spanish at 8.000.

This belief is however confined to the Spaniards almost exclusively, whose opinions are seldom the result of much information or correct reasoning. The report as respects the French force is doubtless unfounded; and the number of Spanish Troops expected here, it is not believed will exceed 3000 Men. Preparations are making at Fort Principe at this place for the reception of Troops from Spain.

A detachment of Troops is about to be sent from this place, to the relief or reinforcement of the Garrison of St. Juan de Ulloa. The Government has advertised for a vessel to transport them. We have no late foreign intelligence at this place. Our latest accounts are from the United States.

Nothing has occurred in reference to the several subjects under my charge, since my last letters. No notice has yet been afforded to me by the Captain General, of the progress or result of the search for the Florida documents - The Appeal cases of the James Lawrence, and the Mosquito are yet undecided, but Decrees are expected

on

on them in a few days. No reasonable doubt exists but that they will be favorable to the Claimants. Since the proceedings of which I have had the honor to inform you in my previous letters, I have taken no new steps in relation to any of those subjects, desiring first to receive further instructions from the Government.

I have not yet had the pleasure to receive any communication from the United States since my arrival.

I have the honor to be Sir

with perfect respect

Your most obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

Randall, Thos
Rec. 25th. aug.

3.7

Havana 2nd Aug.t 1824.

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secy of State.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that by Bills of Exchange of the tenor and date of the one inclosed, I have drawn upon the Government, through your Department, for the sum of 500 Dollars in favor of John Mountain

This sum is required for my personal expenses, and being due to me on account of my salary, I hope my Draft for the Amount will be duly honored.

I have the honor to be

most respectfully Sir

your obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

31.

58 1/2

No

Exch^{ge} 500 Dolls Havana Aug. 2nd 1824

At ~~sight~~ Sight of this Fourth of
Exchange (First Second and Third unpaid) pay To
Mr John Mountain or Order Five
Hundred Dollars
Value received and charge the same to account

Thomas Randall

To
The Honble
John Quincy Adams
Secretary of State
of the U States.

Chambers & Co. 18 Wall St.
New York

54

Randall, Thos.

Duplicate

5.9

Read 28th Sept.r—

Havana Sept.r 6.th 1824.

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you of my return to this city Sunday the 29th ult.o from the country in the neighborhood of Matanzas, where I have been for a few weeks, for the benefit of my health. It became much impaired, and I was advised to seek a change of air. The result has been eminently beneficial, and I am now restored perfectly to health.

On my return I called upon the Captain General to learn, if any thing had been in my absence effected in the business with this Government, but he informed me that he had nothing to communicate to me on those subjects. Since his letter to me of the 26th May wherein he promised to institute a new search for those documents, and to communicate to me the result, I have not heard a word on the subject.

I have abstained from pressing any further the demand for the documents in the suit of Wm Collins, for the reason, that the object for which they were designed has been frustrated by delay, and I do not know whether they are now desired. The attainment of the object may be difficult & embarrassing, and I wish to know the degree of interest the Government feels on the subject.

You are already informed by my letter of the 21st June

of the acquittal of the Brig Otter, one of the Porto Rico Capture brought up to this Island on appeal. Since my return I am enabled to add, the favorable issue of the case of the Brig Mosquito, on which a Decree has been pronounced, reversing the Sentence of condemnation with damages & costs. The case of the James Lawrence is most unaccountably delayed. It is known to have been several times before the Junta, and in the usual order, should have been decided before the Mosquito. The Junta is said to be equally divided in numbers on this cause, and have yet been unable to agree on a sentence. The doubt in this case is the more extraordinary, after the decrees in the two other cases, which not possessing greater (if equal) intrinsic merits, labored under the further disadvantage of presumptive demerit, arising from prior condemnations as Prize. This result seems to confirm the common maxim constantly repeated here, "that in the courts of this Island the best cause generally suffers the worst fate" for the reason, that where a Party relies on the merits of his cause, he forbears to resort to principles & motives of action more powerful with some than a sense of justice. I have already informed you of the imposition practised on the owners of the Otter, before a Decree could be obtained. I have good reason to believe that similar exactions were made in the case of the Mosquito, although the adverse party (the Captors) never appeared to defend the Appeal. The Agent of the owners of the James Lawrence fears much, that a secret influence has been exercised in favor of the Captors. The alternative of condemnation & the repel or ruin to themselves, is presented to the Captors,

and

and it is not to be doubted that they will make very sacrifices to avert the latter. The Character of some members of the Junta and of the Captors, offer no security for the fairness of their proceedings. It is but just to say that the General and Auditor of Marine stand entirely exempt from this reflection. As far as I know them, and in the estimation of the public, they are free from any imputations of this kind. Thinking it might have a favorable influence on the case, I called on the General of Marine to urge anew the justice of a speedy decision of this cause. He apologized for the delay, and promised that it should soon be determined.

The Government will have learned from my letter of the 14th July by the John Adams, and from other accounts, of the renewal of the piracies at this Island in their most atrocious & sanguinary form. In that letter I mentioned the cases of the Spreaton the Castor & others. While at Matanzas I was informed that several other captures had occurred near that City, but from the destruction of the papers and crews, no particulars were known. At the same time the Brig Industry of Baltimore, when in the harbour of Matanzas, & only a few miles from the City, was attacked by five piratical boats, which were beaten off. The firing was distinctly heard in Matanzas. A Spanish Brig of War lay in the Port, but no efforts were made to capture the boats.

While at Matanzas & in its neighborhood, I took much of the nature & extent of the piracies committed there

and

and of the extensive participation in it by Persons of the City and Country. The facts are truly appalling, and far exceed in degree and magnitude the views of it presented in my letter of the 14 July. Large quantities of Rum plunder, are known to have been introduced by the Pirates into Matanzas, and are vending them at prices which alone betray the nature of the property. Many Articles of a peculiar fabric, & known not to have been legitimately introduced, are seen upon Constantly, such as French hats of the newest fashion on the heads of Bulgar Ruffians. The retailers of goods are seen travelling to the coast with Pack-horses, for the known purpose of making purchases from the Pirates. A respectable English man who keeps the ferry near the City informed me, that the returns from his ferry give certain indications, when Prizes are on the coast, from the number of persons who resort from Matanzas to their rendezvous.

No effectual measures are taken to stop this traffic. If occasionally goods are seized in the attempt to smuggle them into the City, the affair terminates by their condemnation or being taken by the Officers of the Customs, and no thing more is heard of it. Persons known to the Pirates, walk the streets unmolested, no one being willing to incur the risk of denouncing them

But very recently a scene of Piracy has been exposed in another quarter, which must have been acting for some months, and which for the extent of its depredations and

them

this atrocity transcends all that have been known for several years. They have taken Puncut Baya Honda to the Leeward of this place near Cape San Antonio, the old scene of similar crimes.

Information having been given to Captain Graham of the British Sloop of War Icarus, an Expedition was fitted out in his Boats, which proceeding to Baya Honda on the 21 Ulto succeeded in capturing two Pirate Vessels & in killing several of the Pirates. On the approach of the boats the Pirates about 40 in number fled into the bushes. On board one of the Pirate Vessels were confined the Captain & crew of the Brig Henry of Hartford bound, who were most miraculously rescued. The Henry was captured on the 16th Ulto bound from a Port in Mexico to Matanzas, with a cargo of Mules. The Capt & his Crew were treated with the accustomed cruelty of those Ruffians, and were designed to be killed the next day, after they had assisted in landing the Mules. The Henry was dismasted & Ship=ped.

In the bay were found the wrecks of 12 Vessels recently destroyed by the Pirates, the crews of all which are supposed to have been murdered. Some of the Vessels were very large, and the British Officer computes, that their crews could not have consisted of a less number than 120 persons. Of this horde of villains nothing had been previously heard & they had been no doubt carrying on their depredations for a considerable time without interruption. Some of the crew of the Henry were told by the Pirates that all those Vessels 12 in number, had been captured & destroyed by them, and upon being asked what had been done with their crews, they very significantly shrugged their shoulders, but gave no answer.

this part of the coast has been but little observed of late by Men of War from an idea that the Pirates had entirely deserted it, and it is still believed to be very imperfectly explored & known. The Island is represented as having many secret harbours difficult of Access, without a very exact Acquaintance with boats. The Pirates run their Prizes into those small harbours or inlets, cut away their masts, and so keep them merely cruizing in the Bay, they are then invisible. It is further stated by the Crew of the Perry that the Pirates had sold to Persons on shore, the Rules on board that Vessel which they were about landing when surprized by the boats of the Perry. It is impossible that such extensive Operations could have been carried on without the full knowledge & participation of the adjacent Country.

Capt. Graham made a representation to the Authorities of the Island, but I am told complains much of the apathy shewn by them on the occasion. He has however been promised that measures should be taken to discover & punish the delinquents, to which purpose orders would be sent to the Captain of the "Parties" or district when the affair occurred. To Captain Graham, his Officers, & men the greatest praise is due for their promptness in equipping the force, the gallantry & spirit with which it was conducted, and not less for their humanity to our unfortunate Countrymen, whom they relieved in the very crisis of their fate. This Officer was before advantageously known, for his good conduct & success against the Pirates, in killing the noted Chief Pépé, and destroying his Establishment at the

Isle

Isle of Pines. Capt. Graham states that the Governor of the Isle of Pines, had a short time before presented to this notorious Pirate an Elegant pair of Pistols. On the destruction of this Party by the English this same Governor claimed great merit for the aid he afforded. I have also been told and have reason to believe, that the Spanish Brig of War "El Marte" Dn. Jose Apodaca Commander a few days since fell in with & boarded a Pirate vessel, the Consort of those destroyed by the boats of the Icarus. The visit terminated however in mutual civilities. The Officers of the Man of War received various presents from the Pirates, and let him keep, although his character was well known to all on board. The Pirate urged that he only cruizes against the Enemies of them. The account is given by a Seaman who was on board the "El Marte", & visited the Pirate.

I report these facts out of the many similar ones which occur, to satisfy the Government that the whole body of the Islets is infected & tainted with this dreadful crime, and as a justification for any Extremity of treatment which the United States may find it necessary to apply. I must add my increased conviction arising from more varied information, that nothing short of a System of strict reprisals, against the Island & Islets, & property, will afford an effectual remedy. I took the liberty in my Letter sent by the John Adams to offer some remarks in recommendation of this measure. In the mean time to check & restrain to partially, a large and active force must be constantly kept up on this Coast. It is also in my opinion necessary that the force employed should be always present, with an undi-

-vided

view & attention to this business. Their occasional absence on other duties, materially impairs their efficacy. Their operations against the Pirates should be consecutive & unremitting. It has been found that occasional visits to suspected places, by different vessels at long intervals produce no serious impression on the Pirates. They serve it is true to afford convoy & a momentary protection, but the intervals of their absence are occupied by the Pirates in renewed depredations. It is considered by all intelligent persons at Matanzas to be indispensable, that a vessel of at least the force of one of our largest Schooners, should be constantly lying in the entrance of that harbour. The advantage of such a measure has been before evinced.

While on this subject I think it my duty to state, that much dissatisfaction & complaint exists amongst the Merchants & traders here, belonging to the United States, because of the great diminution of our Naval force in this quarter, during the past summer. They allege the Summer Months to be much more frequented with danger to vessels, because of the calms which prevail, and which while they permit the smallest species of piratical boats to keep the sea, expose the Merchant vessels much more to their attacks. In the more boisterous months, many of those boats cannot emerge, and the vessels approaching rapidly to the coast & running at once into Port, are much less liable to Capture. I am endeavouring to silence these complaints, (which will probably be heard in the United States), and to convince them that every possible care has been

taken

taken to afford them protection. I cannot but lament however the cause (sufficient no doubt), which have induced the withdrawing of so large a portion of the force. Recent events have proved, that if this was induced by the supposition that piracy was effectually put down, or that the force left was adequate to obtain it, the opinion was erroneous, and its consequences deplorable.

"We have had a prolific source of piracy and a fit nursery & school for its followers, continues to be carried on with increased activity. My letter of the 21 June contained some information on this subject, upon which I know the Government of the United States feels a deep an interest. Since that time many vessels have left this Port & Island for Slaves, and I am informed that on Sunday the 22nd ultimo five left this City in company for the coast. The vessels are principally owned by a Company, the profits of which are very great. In proportion as the audacity & activity of the traders in prosecuting this prohibited & infamous traffic increase, the zeal of the Government in its suppression abates. The Slaves (it is said) are now landed near the City, & soon lodged in the old "Barracoons" or Barracks the former receptacles for them. The case of the Slave vessel mentioned in that letter, has at last been brought before the Mixed commission, and condemned, after most of the Slaves have been abducted. They are not to be returned to the coast of Africa, but to be sold here for a limited period. Thus far, this is the whole spirit of the

convention

for suppressing the Slave Trade.

No natural change has occurred in the Political condition of this Island since my letter of the 21st June in which it was addressed to. There has been lately a revolt amongst the Troops at Matanzas, which at first caused great agitation & alarm, but it was speedily suppressed. The enclosed paper (the Gazette of Matanzas) contains the Government account of the affair. It is simply this.

An Officer of Dragoons named Rodriguez, having on the evening of the 23 Ult.o been ordered into arrest by the Governor of Matanzas, took occasion to visit the Dragoon quarters, when he ordered the Sergeant to arm his Dragoons, mount & follow him. This was obeyed by all there in quarters consisting of 8 or 10 who with Rodriguez at their head, sallied out into the City proclaiming the "Constitution" and that the "King was a Prisoner" with other seditious cries. They rode through the streets, fired pistols over the heads of the persons collected, & then very deliberately & without interruption escaped into the Country. You will observe that the Government ascribes the Tumult to the misconduct of the Officer merely, whom they wish to have considered as its sole Author. I was near Matanzas when it occurred, and returned to that City the second day after. I was there informed by several very judicious persons, that the affair was by no means so casual & isolated, but that there existed a plan of revolt or insurrection (of which this is supposed to have been a premature explosion) more extended & having Ramifications in other parts of the Island.

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As an evidence of this it is understood that the arrest of Bodriguez was occasioned by some seditious sentiments uttered by him a short time before while excited at a convivial meeting, and by some indiscreet remarks indicating the existence of a plot. His sudden arrest & the ordering him on board of a man of War as Prisoner, hurried him to the desperate step he took. It is evident that the Governor of Matanzas as well as the Captain General participated in the alarm which in the first hurry of their proceedings could not be concealed, although they now for obvious reasons make light of the affair. A attempt was made at Matanzas to pursue the Revolters with the Dragoons & other troops stationed there, which indicated a doubt of their fidelity. Additional troops & a detachment of the police were immediately sent to Matanzas, & every effort made to arrest the Officer. It is reported that he has made his escape from the Island.

No particulars are known to the public respecting the nature and objects of the plot, nor of the number or characters of those composing it. It is said the 30th ulto was the day fixed for its execution. If so the precipitate & untoward event at Matanzas, has disconcerted the project. Although I possess not sufficient evidence to satisfy me of the existence of such a conspiracy to effect an immediate Revolution, I certainly believe the revolt at Matanzas, tho' unconnected, may be a casual, and more important than the Government represents it. In a Government like this, Seditions are seldom accidental or unpremeditated, and at a crisis like the present, and amongst

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a people is susceptible to sudden impulses they are always dangerous. But when they take place amongst the Slavery they become much more the subject of just alarm.

It is difficult to obtain sufficient data from which to calculate with any confidence, the prevailing sentiments of the People of this Island upon political subjects, and the probability of the permanency of the present state of things. The jealousy & suspicion of the Government, under the inhabitants very circumspect & reserved in their conduct & opinions. No popular tumult has occurred, no any event of sufficient importance to excite the ebullition of popular feeling: from which conclusions might be drawn as to their real sentiments. It is true that about the epoch of the abolition of the "Constitution" an insurrection formidable from its numbers was detected & suppressed. The energy of the Government on that occasion has since produced order & quiet. But it is believed that this calm is superficial & deceitful, the result of constraint, and likely to be at any moment disturbed, by the elements of disorder & opposition which compose the mass.

The present state of things is not considered permanent by its friends or its enemies. This is evinced in the disquiet & anxiety in the minds of the people apparent with all their desire of concealment; in the avidity with which they receive & propagate rumours however wild & absurd. It is further deduced from a consideration of the composition of the people of this Island.

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The fee population of this Island may be divided into three general classes, distinguished as well by natural, as by moral differences.

The "old Spaniards" & their immediate connections, including nearly all the Officers of Government, compose the first class.

The second class consists of the "Creoles" or native Inhabitants, forming the mass of the population.

The third class the last numerous is composed of Emigrant Inhabitants (whether Traders or Planters.) from the United States and Europe other than Spaniards.

Between the first & second classes, a most deadly hostility is said to exist, probably more felt by the Creoles towards the Spaniards than conversely, from the obvious effect of the different relations of Governors & governed, which have invariably subsisted between them. The Creoles cannot brook or forgive the haughty superiority assumed by the Spaniards, and whether or not the tyranny & abuses of their government be to be added, as a cause of animosity, the first is alone adequate to its excitement. The Spaniards are attached to the Mother Country and to its present form of Government, from nurture, education, prejudice & interest, and even from a better Motive - Patriotism. With the Creoles on the contrary, there is entire absence of attachment of existing at all, or felt much less sensibly, and are more than counteracted by the reflection, that the Sovereignty of Spain is only exercised over them in the persons of a most odious class. As evidence of this state of feeling, while the Constitution was generally disliked by the Spaniards

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it was sincerely admired & approved of by the Creoles almost unanimously. They were at once united in its favor, for it gave them power, and made them equal and in some respects superior to their former oppressors. They received it with enthusiasm, and started with it with vigor, although they either possessed not strength, or courage to maintain it. Such is their hostility to the Spaniards, that in the plots which have been exposed, they are proved to have formed the most deep & insidious plans of vengeance.

The views & principles of the third class coincide with those of the others, though circumstances had them generally to take part with the first. They are of course divested of any attachment to Spain or its Government, but on the contrary must be disposed to feel very opposite sentiments, however they are induced to support it at present. They do not & cannot respect or regard the local government, however mildly it may bear upon them, for they are generally well informed and they see it is without integrity & competency. They are not oppressed by the direct arm of power, but they suffer from the abuse & inexecution of the laws, & the perversion of justice. They are interested in the prosperity of the Island, and they see that its resources are undeveloped & its improvement checked by the vices of its government. In fine they would prefer the sovereignty & protection of almost any stable & powerful Government to that of Spain, although they may have various preferences on the subject. They are opposed to the independence of the Island because

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they doubt its ability to defend itself internally or externally; and because they do not believe people capable of self-government. The experiment of the Constitution (which approximated somewhat to independence) was most unfortunate here. It neither promised permanency, nor did it access with them it desirable.

In common with the Hamiards & all the Slave holders, they feel much solicitude & alarm in relation to that very numerous class of the population. The Creoles are said to think designs of exciting the slaves to revolt, and by this aid of subverting the Government. It will thus be seen that the parts of this body politic are not & cannot become homogeneous, although the force of circumstances may prevent their immediate collision. This classification may not be universally, but it is generally correct, for while to the adherents of the present government should be added all those who from timidity or interest are attached to the present state of things, the numbers of these opponents will be increased by men of desperate character & fortunes of every class who are desirous of change, because any change will better their condition.

The first class supported by the name & force of the Supreme Government, & also by the third class, may be considered as the most powerful; or at least as sufficiently strong to maintain order & restrain insurrections.

I ventured some remarks in a former letter, upon this subject, & particularly as to the consequences likely

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to result from the continuance of the war between Spain and her former colonies, upon the condition of this Island. I shall consider that cause as more likely to produce the severance of this Island from Spain than any other. It is supposed that the Colombian government has a strong party amongst the Creoles, who are desirous of a close connection with that State. This has been ascertained by the detection of certain conspiracies in which the agency of Bolivar was perceptible, & in the plans of which an union with that Republic was designed. Should the recent success of Bolivar in Peru be followed (as may be expected) by the defeat & expulsion of the enemy in that quarter, it is supposed that he will immediately turn his attention & forces to this Island. Its importance to Spain, not only from the direct contributions it affords, but more particularly as being the centre & fulcrum of other operations against the American States, point it out as being a most prominent & important acquisition to the Independent states. Should that State be able to establish a rallying point to the discontented, and a counterpoise to the forces of Spain, they will probably succeed in their objects.

In a former letter I adverted to the injuries & losses sustained by this Island while in hostility with Mexico and all South America. Those sufferings & privations, are becoming in the opinion of most persons with whom I have conversed, too great for much longer endurance.

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The coasting trade of the Island has been almost destroyed by the capture of the "Rogers" & other vessels in great numbers by the Colombian Privateers. The misfortunes of this State of things extends also to the United States. For it is known that in many cases the owners & crews of these vessels becoming destitute from the loss of their means of living, and stimulated by the lust of sudden riches, that citizens of the U. States fitted out & owned these Privateers, have turned Pirates with a view to plunder or revenge.

A peace between the belligerents upon almost any terms would be lasting for this Islands, although its being left a Province of Spain would be more to its advantage in a commercial point of view. In that event, it would become the "Entrepôt" of the Trade between those States, & would also maintain a most valuable intercourse with its own products.

Should a Revolution in this Island be spontaneous, and the people free to elect an alliance or connection with a foreign Government, (which for protection they would probably have to do,) it is not easy to conjecture how they would decide. It has been stated that the Colonians have a party in their favor, but it is believed to be confined principally to the Creoles. The Spaniards the Europeans, & the Land holders would be utterly opposed to the Sovereignty of that State. They consider its government too unstable, & its power insufficient to afford full protection, and they fear the application of its

laws

laws of equality & Emancipation to the slaves of this Island.

The foreigners as a class are believed to be almost unanimously in favor of a connection with the United States. The few among them who would prefer the protection & Government of Great Britain, are attached to that nation, from the almost indissoluble ties of nationality, or their preference arises from the conviction that that Government alone possesses the power & the faculties adequate to insure order and protection. Some of them believe the institutions of the United States to be too liberal & mild for this people, and no doubt exist as to the compatibility of such a connection, with a Republican form of Government.

The Africans generally it is supposed can scarcely brook the idea of a transfer of sovereignty from Spain to any other power, but should it become inevitable, it is not believed that they have any preference for that of Great Britain. They are sufficiently perspicacious to see that the interests of this Island would be sacrificed or made subordinate to those of the other British West India possessions, and that their present free trade with all the world would be greatly restricted. On the contrary proximity & geographical position concur in recommending a connection with the United States. The advantage of a free admission of the sugar & coffee of this Island into that country would alone insure its prosperity!

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should the question ever be presented to the people of this Island for decision, it is confidently believed that those considerations & others would induce them to seek the alliance & protection of the United States, in preference to any other.

In remarking on the possibilities of such an event, it is scarcely necessary for me to add, that I am altogether ignorant of the views & wishes of my Government on that subject. Nor do I presume to discuss the question of its expediency or compatibility with our form of government, nor even to give an opinion as to the benefit or injury likely to result to the United States from such a connection. I must also admit that I have not been able to test the accuracy of my views as to the political feelings & principles of the Havanians & people of this Island by actual communications with them. With the opinions of the Foreign Inhabitants, I presume to be better acquainted, & from their information principally, and from little personal observation, I have ventured to state them of the others.

The probability of a cession of this Island to Great Britain, which was so much apprehended in the United States at one period, no longer exists, and is not now even mentioned. From the pertinacity with which the King of Spain maintains his ideal sovereignty over the American States, and from his determination

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not to resign (what only remains to him in this conduct of arms) the mere "spem recuperandi". it is not to be imagined that he would voluntarily part with so valuable a possession, and without which any hope of success in re-establishing his ancient dominion would be scarcely conceivable. I cannot discover any indication of secret or this negociation, carried on by Great Britain in this Island towards that object; nor do I believe that her influence here with the Government or the people, is much to be dreaded.

With respect to its aspiring to, or occupation by France, which has been frequently reported to be decided on, that is a matter depending on events now transacting in Europe, of which we are not competent here to form an opinion. No indications of such measure are to be found here.

Since my return I had the pleasure to receive a letter from Mr Brent of the State Department, which acknowledged the receipt of my letter of the 21 June (therein quoted as of the 9th,) with its enclosures. Grateful for the permission granted to me by the President to return in accordance with my request, I shall not be regardless of the proviso annexed to it. Neither the state of the business entrusted to my charge here, nor the aspect of affairs justify me in fixing a period for my return, altho' my desire to do

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continues unabated. My health being completely re-
stored, no necessity now exists for that step.

The above (mentioned) letter is the only one from the
Government, with which I have been honored, and I
feel sensibly the want of further instruction and ad-
vice in relation to the further prosecution of some
of the subjects confided to my charge.

Since my letter of the 21 June, I have had the honor
to direct to you the following to wit.
of the date of the 1st July by the Brig Eaden via Charles-
ton; of the 5th July by the Steam Ship Robert Fulton
via New York, & of the 14 July by the U. S. Ship John
Adams Capt. Dallas.

On the 2nd ult. I took the liberty to draw on your Dep-
artment for the sum of $3500, as stated in my letter of
advice bearing equal date.

The letter of which this is a duplicate, was dispatched
by the Schooner Elizabeth Capt. Franklin via Baltimore
consigned to the special care of the Captain.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Sir

Your most obedient Servant.

Thomas Randall

Randall, Tho.s

Received 13th October.

Havana Sept. 15th 1824.

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State.

Sir.

On the 6th inst. I had the honor to write to you a letter which was dispatched by the Sch.r Elizabeth Capt. Franklin, which sailed on the 11th for Baltimore. A duplicate of that letter was sent by the Sch.r Cadmus Capt. Hamilton via Baltimore.

On the 11th inst. I received certain information, that a final Decree had been that day pronounced in the case of the James Lawrence by the "Junta of the Marine". You will doubtless learn with the prize that the Decree of the board at Porto Rico, has been reversed, and both the Vessel & Cargo condemned as good prize. Although somewhat prepared for such a result, as will be seen in my letter of the 6th inst. I must confess my utter astonishment at this most extraordinary decision.

The decree is signed by seven of the "Vocales" and by the General of the Marine, and the sole ground of condemnation is, the violation of the Blockade of Terra Firma imposed by General Morales. But it being an established fact of the case, that this Blockade had been raised by a Royal Order of the 23rd Dec.r 1822. before the capture of the James Lawrence, the "Junta" attempt to evade its force

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on the futile ground (whether true or false) that the Privateer being at sea when the Royal Order was published, the Captors were ignorant of the revocation of the Blockade, when the Capture was made. It is obvious that the only benefit the Captors could have a right to expect from this ignorance, would be an immunity from damages for the mere capture & detention of the vessel in the first instance. But it would be idle for me to discuss any further a Decree, which not embracing at all the real questions in the case, proceeds from gratuitous assumptions, to a false conclusion.

This Decree is opposed by the Auditor of Marine, and by two of the "Vocales", who refuse to sign it. The Auditor has given his opinion in writing that there does not exist the least pretext or ground for condemnation, and he recommends the confirmation of the Sentence below, to its full extent, and even an additional Penalty, on the Captors, for their Misconduct.

It is not the least extraordinary part of this case to find the Fiscal of Marine concurring in the Decree, when he declared to me at my first interview with him, "that he considered these Porto Rico Privateers men to be all Pirates and that if he had his way he would hang them, as had been done at Jamaica." He has recorded this opinion almost in terms, in two of these decrees, where the vessels had been condemned in that Island, and now in the only case, where an able & just Sentence has been given by the Court below, he concurs in reversing it.

My.

My opinion of this Court & its Judges is already known to You, and I presume you may readily anticipate my opinion as to the causes which have produced this most unjust decree. In this case it would be the affectation of delicacy to qualify or measure terms, in remarking upon the Conduct of this Tribunal. I cannot conceal my decided conviction, that this Decree has been obtained by a Secret & corrupt agreement with a majority of the "Junta". Such is the unanimous opinion of all persons Spaniards or Foreigners who are acquainted with the whole action, which they scruple not to avow. Even the Officers of this Court do not hesitate to say the same.

In the two other cases decided by this Tribunal, the Claimants were compelled to purchase Justice, although they had no opposition from the adverse party. In the present one, the Owners, relying on the former Decrees and confident of success were unwilling to resort to such a course. In truth the value of this claim would not have justified the large & expenditure which would have been required by the competition in this case. The different results are now seen.

I have advised Mr Ray the Agent & a part owner in the concern to enter an appeal to the King of Spain, with a view to prevent the Examination of the Security in Porto Rico, until he can learn the pleasure of the other owners. This he is now effecting. There can be no doubt that the appeal if prosecuted must be successful

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as the opinion of the Auditor (who is an able Jurist) must alone more than countervail that of the rest of the Junto. But it is doubtful whether the owners are in case the very great expense of prosecuting such an appeal. They have already expended a large amount in conducting the suit at Porto Rico, Principe was the place, and from the ill success they have experienced, have little inducement to hazard more. I fear too they will meet the same difficulty in carrying up the appeal as was experienced in the case of Mr Vollens.

The only thing which remains for me now in those appeal cases, is to collect the Decrees in those three cases that they may be compared & the Government of the United States be furnished with the grounds of their decision.

The few days which have elapsed since my last letter, have given rise to some occurrences, which it may be proper to state as a sequel to that communication. I only fear that my anxiety to keep you informed of the progress of my business and of the state of affairs here, may have induced me to give an undue importance to those subjects, and that my letters will be found too circumstancial & prolix.

There have been within a few days many persons arrested, charged with being concerned in a treasonable plot, to subvert the government & to establish independence. About 20 of them have been brought to

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to this city where they are now confined in prison. Amongst them are said to be some men of influence & respectability. They are from the neighborhood of Matanzas, & nearly all of them blacks. It is not known what information the Government has received as to their numbers and plans. It is however understood, that there has been a "Junta" or secret society of the disaffected for some time established near Matanzas with affiliated societies in other places. But whatever may be the number of the disaffected, while their plans are so injudiciously made & so indiscreetly conducted, they will be easily detected & crushed. These arrests serve greatly to increase the exasperation of the blacks, who consider themselves as the especial & exclusive objects of the jealousy and oppression of the Government.

The Pirates at Key Sal & to the Windwards, have lately received an increase of numbers which threatens to give more extension to their ravages - Several Slave Vessels were captured by a Colombian Privateer & their crews to the number of 140 Men sent into Matanzas A large number of these desperadoes stole boats & left that place avowedly to join the Pirates. The Vessels to which they belonged were under convoy of a French Brig of War, which however did not attempt to afford them protection. This conduct of the French Commander, has much exasperated the Spaniards, & they are now as much incensed against the French, as they were before against the Americans & English. Some of the owners of those Vessels openly threaten reprisals, and say

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they will respect no Flag, in other words that they will burn Pirates & make up their losses.

Some persons have been lately arrested at or near Baya Honda & sent to this City in custody charged with being concerned in the late piracies committed in that quarter. Some of them belong to Regla a village in this harbour which has been long the head quarters of the Pirates.

The Authorities of this Island have at length made a strong effort against the Pirates. An expedition of launches & boats was prepared & actually sailed on the night of the 12th inst. on this service. To conceal the design from the Pirates an Embargo was laid on the 11th on all vessels & boats in this harbour which was not raised until the 14th. But as much time was lost by these tardy preparations, & no other precautions taken to prevent its being known, it is not to be doubted that the Pirates received timely intelligence of the movement from their fellows here.

This new born zeal of the Authorities has excited some surprize & speculation in this City. It is supposed to have been excited by the affair of the Brig "Mentor" mentioned in my last letter. The Commandant of that vessel has himself reported to the Government, his having fallen in with the Pirates off Cays Confites or Sugar Key, and that he had treated with them under a flag of truce, not feeling strong enough to attack them. This disgraceful affair has thrown such contempt

upon

the flag of Spain, and it is an hourly talk that the Government is now inclined to attempt something effectual. The present expedition is however the subject of derision in this City and from its composition promises nothing but failure and disgrace.

I anticipate better results from two other Expeditions which will be on the same service about the same time. The one in His Brit.e Maj.y's Ship Thracian Capt.n Forbes which left this port on the 13th on a Cruize against the Pirates to the Windward. The other has been fitting out for some days at Key West, and has or will I hope fallen in with the party at Sugar Key.

Some proceedings of the Colombian Privateer Court just been reported to me, which I think should be communicated to the Government. Sir I shall do so without comment, knowing that the facts will receive from you the consideration they merit. Capt.n Ritchie commd the H.M. Sch.r Fox 20 days from Jamaica informs me that at his sailing they had just learned that several American Vessels had been cut out from under the Castle of St. Juan de Ulloa by a Colombian Privateer. The Sch.r Constitution is said to be one of them. They are seized on the ground of violating some pretended Blockade of that Port, when the Colombians have never had a Vessel of War.

Information has also been this day received here that the Brig Atlant Capt.n Phillips of New York, bound from Gibraltar to this Port, has been captured & sent into a

Port

Port on the Main, on suspicion of having Spanish property on board.

I have just been informed by the Agent of Messrs Hollins at this place, that the Captain General has ordered the proceedings in his suit to be prepared & sent up to Madrid for the determination of Her Majesty. This notice to the Agent is accompanied with a demand on the Parties for the sum of $ 1500 for the cost of the proceedings. Mr Hollins' Agent has of course refused to pay it for various reasons & it is now ordered to be paid out of the proceeds in dispute. Against this the Agent has also protested. It now appears that the Captain General is President of the Court of "Alzades" or superior Tribunal of the Royal Consulado, has the power to issue orders affecting these documents now, although before he refused to act but by "way of recommendation." In the present state of this business I thought it advisable not to interfere but to leave it entirely to the Agent of Messrs Hollins to whom the notice from the Captain General was addressed.

With sentiments of the highest respect

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

Randall. J. Recd 26. Nov.

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Havana Oct. 31st 1824.

The Hon.ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State.

Sir.

The last letter which I had the honor to address to you was dated the 15 of Sept.r, and was forwarded by the U States Schooner Fox Captain Ritchie, which sailed three days thereafter.

Having heard nothing from the Governor of Cuba, in relation to the Florida archives and documents since his letter of the 26 May, in which he promised to order another search for them, and to communicate to me the result, I addressed to him on the 17th inst. a letter on the subject, a copy of which is herewith inclosed. To this letter I have received an answer, in which he states, that the search had been as fruitless as the former one made by his Predecessor, and that no papers had been found relating to the Archives and documents claimed by the Government of the United States, under the 2nd Art. of the Treaty of Cession. A translation of this letter I have the honor to inclose.

This answer of course precludes all further discussion of the subject by me at this time, and I fulfil this part of my instructions, by communicating the result to the Government for its consideration. This business being thus disposed of, and expecting in a short time, to collect all the material information and documents relative to the cases of appeal from Porto Rico to the Maritime Tribunals of this Island, no other object will then

remain

remain of sufficient importance to require my longer continuance in this Island. Availing myself therefore of the permission granted by the President, I have decided to return to the United States speedily, unless otherwise instructed by letter from your Department, receivd upon the period fixed for my departure.

Mr. Bay is still detained at this place endeavoring to perfect the measures preliminary to carrying up the appeal to Spain in the case of the James Laurence. But he meets with every possible obstruction which ingenuity can raise up, to debar him from this right, except upon terms which will render it unavailing to the Owners. If some parallel cases of injustice had not occurred in this Island, I should consider the abuse and perversion of justice & law in this instance, as more flagitious, than the records of any court in a civilized country could present.

Mr. Bay's former letters contain all the cases of piracy which have come to my knowledge since residence at this place, and I regret to have to add to the black Catalogue, some recent instances marked with a degree of cruelty, so wanton and atrocious, as to be peculiar even in the annals of this most barbarous Warfare. Several American vessels were captured about the 20th inst. near Malanzas, by a large Launch from Regla, their crews all murdered with the exception of one seaman, and the vessels burnt. Two of the vessels are known viz. the Lauraetta, and the Morning Star, both of New York. the latter supposed to have been bound to New Orleans with Passengers. From the first named vessel, one seaman escaped, by secreting himself under the Cargo when his companions were murdered. The Pirates after setting fire to the

vessel

vessel, deserted her when this seaman escaped by swimming to the shore. He reached Matanzas, and has there given a detail of the horrid affair. A piratical boat, belonging to Pizta was the next day captured by the Boats of the U. States Sch^r Porpoise, and in the same which made the above captures. The crew unfortunately escaped to the Island Cassinova.

The Boat, and the articles which it contained, gave bloody evidences of the tragical scenes which had been acted by its crew. Many suits of clothes were found on board, bloody, and pierced with holes through which their unfortunate wearers had been stabbed. Some of them partly worn belonged to Females!!

The Pirates are known to have remained together, and to have slept the ensuing night in a house on the shore, near Cassinova, without molestation, although the blaze of the vessel which they burnt, the pursuit of their vessel by the boats of the Porpoise were all distinctly seen by the People on the shore, in whose view the Pirates landed. These facts I have just heard from a respectable Person from Matanzas, and Mr Mountain has received a letter from Matanzas of the same tenor. This letter has been sent to the Captain General on his application.

A full detail of the affair, has no doubt been sent to the United States by the Naval Officers, and the Consular Agent on that Station. Other vessels are missing, and are supposed to have shared the same fate. From the evidence of the Seaman of the Lamar when above referred to, it appears, that the Pirates were not content with simply putting to death the crew of that vessel, which made no resistance, and offered nothing to excite their hostility, but perpetrated it with the most refined

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and cruel to them they could invent. It is an important fact also in this case, that the fate of the Laura Bain was known at this place, through the means of the Pirates themselves, more than 24 hours before any regular communications had or could have been received from the scene of action through any other medium. The first account came from Pagbar, and when inquiries were made by me as to its authenticity, I was answered "that it was undoubtedly true for it came from Pagbar, and might therefore be considered as official." One other circumstance convinces me, that the first account must have been communicated by the Pirates themselves to their confederates in Pagbar. It is this. It was first reported here, that every man on board had been put to death. This the Pirates certainly must have believed to be the case, from the care they took to effect it; and that the burning of the hull had sealed the fate of all on board; and then they reported it. The escape of the Seaman was not known until the arrival of the Steam Boat from Malanguy, brought the first authentic & certain intelligence on the subject.

It will thus be seen that this horrible crime continues to be perpetrated to an extent, & with a savage ferocity never before equalled. Of the numerous captures the particulars of which are known, the indiscriminate murder of all on board, appears to be the settled purpose of those unprincipled villains. It is painful to reflect upon the numbers who may have fallen victims to the same fate, but whose tragical story may be buried in the ocean with their mangled bodies. It is now obvious that Piracy has found a congenial

a boil, has grown to so fearful an extent, and is so deeply rooted in this Island, as to require the efforts of all commercial Nations to eradicate it. Piracy, with the Slave trade (the prolific Parent of this and many other crimes) now reigns in full licentiousness, and defies as well the sanction of law, as the impotent arm of government. Those crimes have become the settled, inveterate habit and occupation of a large portion of the people of this Island. The thirst for illicit gain has displaced all desire for fair & legitimate acquisitions, and familiarity with scenes of blood and carnage has stifled the voice of humanity and remorse. It has now become a cause in which not only individual property and lives to a fearful aggregate are jeopardied, but even the honor of Nations, and the cause of civilization are at stake.

It cannot be endured that this band of remorseless wretches should be suffered longer to cumber the earth. The robberies and cruelties of the Barbary States which have so often roused all Christendom to arms, were trifling in extent and ferocity, compared with those of the Pirates of Cuba. It is in vain for commercial Nations to rely for security upon mere preventive measures at sea, or upon the efforts of the Authorities and people of this Island to exterminate it. The Authorities cannot restrain it if they would. Even the present Governor characterized as he is for firmness & moral courage, feels his powers inadequate at this crisis, to venture upon the measures of vigor & severity, so fatal to the profession. The ridiculous issue of the late expedition from this Port, has only served to display in full relief the weakness of the Government, and to afford another argument of security to the

Pirates.

the unprincipled & wicked have obtained the complete ascendancy,
and the honest few dare not denounce or punish the criminals.
In such a state of things the Pirates must be pursued by
foreign forces into their retreats on land, and this commu-
nity waked by a severe and just retribution to aid in
ejecting those miscreants from its bosom. The cause of
justice and humanity will require that parts of this Island be
occupied by a foreign force, and that the sword of justice be
wrested from the hands of those who have proved themselves
unworthy, or too weak to wield it. Pardon me Sir if on
this subject I suffer my feelings to lead me into too great a
warmth of expression, or importunacy of zeal. To be here on
the spot, to witness those horrid scenes of devastation and murder,
upon the unarmed citizens of friendly nations; to know that these
savage acts are practiced in, and countenanced by numbers,
and viewed with a frigid indifference by the whole community;
to find the Government of this Island shamefully remiss in measures
of prevention and punishment, cannot but excite the most
lively indignation at the past, and the most intense anxiety
for the future.

On this subject I beg leave to refer you to a publication in the
National Gazette of Philadelphia of the 17 Sept.r last which
I have just read. and which presents a most lively and faith-
ful picture of this crime in Cuba. This piece has excited much
sensation at this place, and the entire accuracy of its details,
and the profound and just views which it exhibits of the
causes, nature & extent of this crime, are borne testimony to by
every intelligent man with whom I have conversed on the

subject-

I beg leave to refer to this account, (the writer of which I know not,) as developing fully and favorably than I could myself do, my views upon this subject.

I take the liberty to add some remarks on the disposition and conduct of the naval forces of the United States on this station which were designed to be employed in the suppression of Piracy. It is now a matter of common observation and complaint, that the Anti piratical Squadron has effected nothing against the Pirates commensurate with its numbers & force, during the last six months. This has not been owing to the want of zeal, of enterprize or courage on the part of our officers & seamen who actively engaged in this pursuit, but to their diversion to other objects incompatible with the efficient performance of this highly important service. Since the Spring the vessels have been dispersed on various services remote from this Island, which they have merely made a touching point in transitu without remaining long enough to make any permanent impression on the system. For a considerable time the most exposed part of this coast, and at the most dangerous season, was not visited by a single vessel of War, and for a still longer time by none but the smallest & most inefficient. The temporary cessation of piracies some time before, caused by the presence of a large force on the coast, seems to have induced a delusive & fatal opinion that the evil was extinguished, and to have led to the diversion of too large a portion of the force to objects of infinitely less pecuniary, and of scarcely any national importance. I allude to the Convoying of Specie for our Merchants in vessels of War, the whole effect of which is to take a trifling premium of

insurance

to one class of the community which would otherwise be taxed to another class. In denouncing this practice as detrimental to the best interests of the nation, I but repeat the common sentiment of every man who has witnessed its effects during the past summer. If the benefit to commerce by this medium for the transportation of specie, be of sufficient importance, it may be effected by vessels specially designated for that purpose But experience shews that the suppression of piracy, and the transportation of specie on the late system, are incompatible. The first alone is more than sufficient to occupy all the time and energies of any force we can detach for that service.

It must be evident, that officers arriving here, their vessels freighted with large sums of money, deliverable in the United States or elsewhere, for which they have signed bills of lading, and on which insurance has been effected by all parties for their respective interests. have contracted obligations always embarrassing, and frequently directly adverse to the performance of some more important service. Such has been the predicament of many vessels of the United States designed to protect our trade against the Pirates, which have merely touched at this Island in their voyages to & from other Islands out of the sphere of Piracy, and the Ports in the Gulf of Mexico the usual termini of their voyages. They stop at the larger Ports of this Island, barely time enough to take in water & other supplies to land or receive specie, and then after a long cruize between the United States, this useful ship limited to the convoying of a few vessels from the coast. I trust the notoriety of the practice here, its effects

upon

upon the character of the Navy, and of the Nation, and more especially upon the property and lives of our citizens, will be sufficient to justify these suggestions. I am aware that it is a delicate subject and not lightly or rashly to be touched. but I should ill discharge my duty as an American citizen and as an officer of the Government, if from an ill timed or fastidious delicacy I omitted to denounce a practice so pregnant with mischief.

I am happy to add that Captain Kennedy and the officers now on this Station discountenance this practice, and that both their conduct & proceedings are entirely conformable to the most urged dictates of duty. The Warrant, the Porpoise & some of the smaller vessels are actively engaged in the pursuit of the Pirates.

The Political condition of this Island has experienced no material change since my last letter. Numerous arrests continue to be made of the disaffected, but they excite but little sensation or inquiry apparently, and seem to be soon forgotten. They serve however to evince the jealousy & watchfulness of the Government, & to prove that under the superficial calm which prevails, the elements of confusion & disorder still exist.

The letter from Mr Brent of the 15 July is the only communication which I have yet received from your Department since my arrival in this Island.

With sentiments of the highest respect

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your most obedient servant

Thomas Randall

Copy.

Letter to the Governor and Captain General of Cuba.

Havana Oct. 17 1824

His Excy.

Dn. Fs. Dionl. Vives

Gov. & Capt. Genl. of Cuba

Sir.

In answer to an application made by me on the subject of the Florida Archives and documents claimed by my Government under the 2d. Art. of the Treaty with Spain, concluded at Washington the 22d. of February 1819, Your Excy. was pleased to inform me by a letter of the 20 of May last as follows, that notwithstanding the searches which the Predecessor of Your Excy. had ordered to be made into the Boxes of papers which were brought from West Florida in 1819 Your Excy. had directed another scrupulous search by Persons of full confidence and intelligence, the result of which I should be duly advised of.

Of the progress or result of this new search I am yet unadvised, and being desirous of closing this business in order to inform the United States I beg leave to invite the attention of your Excy. to this subject, and to request such information in relation to it as it may be in your power to communicate.

I avail myself also of the occasion to remind Your Excy. that by the order of my Government I had the honor in a despatch note to Your Excy. of the date of 21 May last to request Copies of certain documents & papers of the Archives and documents of this Government & that to this application I have not yet been favoured with an answer.

With the highest consideration &c

Your Excys Most Obedient Servant

Thomas Randall

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Translation.

Letter from the Governor and Captain General of Cuba.

In Conformity with what I said to you in a note of the 21st May last, that there should be another search into the boxes of Papers brought from West Florida in the year 1819; and in reply to your (letter) of the 17th inst. I have to inform you, that it has been as fruitless, as that which My Predecessor had formerly made; not finding any paper relating to the Archives & Documents which the Government of the United States claims, under its understanding of the 2nd Art. of the Treaty of Cession of those Provinces: for further intelligence I reproduce every anterior reply which this Government has given upon that Matter

God preserve you &c

Havana 26 Oct. 1824.

Signed

Jas. Dismal Viers

W. Randall

Washington March 21 1825

Henry Clay Esq.
Secretary of State.
Sir.

Having been informed by the President, that the service for which I had held myself in readiness since my last return to the United States, would not at present be required, and that the appointments which I had the honor to hold, would now terminate, I am induced to urge at this time a claim for an allowance, of the nature of which the President is already apprized.

By him I am advised to present the claim to you, together with the reasons on which it is founded; and as your accession to the Department of State, is too recent to have furnished you with a knowledge of the facts connected with my application, I beg leave to state them as briefly as possible, together with the considerations, by which I feel justified in urging it.

In April 1823, without any solicitation on my part, — Mr Adams, then Secretary of State, was pleased to offer to me the appointment of Agent of the United States for commerce and seamen, for the Islands of Porto Rico & Cuba, and for the Ports on the Spanish Main, together with that of Commissary under the 2d Art. of the Florida Treaty. Feeling highly honored by this spontaneous offer of an appointment, which the Secretary of State was pleased to consider as highly important and confidential, I accepted it with little hesitation. Upon inquiring the amount of compensation to be allowed, I was informed that it would be at the rate of $ 3000 per Annum. To this Object, that such an allowance would be inadequate to the sacrifice I should make, in abandoning my professional business, which was at that time rapidly increasing, and

then

than worth more than $2000 per annum. I added, that the pecuniary consideration would be insufficient to induce me to accept it, in case my continuance abroad should be so protracted, as to detach me entirely from my practice at this Bar; that if the service required of me could be completed in the course of the ensuing summer and autumn, so as to occasion only the temporary suspension of my profession, and to allow of my resuming it without much inconvenience at my return, I should then be indifferent as to the emolument, and not dissatisfied with the honor of the appointment. And I expressed my hope that the Secretary of State would take into consideration these reasons, and that the President would see the justice of extending my allowance in case of a protracted absence to that of a "Chargé D'affaires", which I had understood was then allowed to one or more Agents of the government in the South American States, and whose duties & stations were similar to mine.

Mr Adams promised that my representations should be duly considered, and stated that the President was always disposed to make the most liberal allowances to public Agents, which propriety or usage could justify. I must frankly admit, that I did not understand the Secretary of State to make any express promise or assurance that my claim should be granted, but I felt perfectly satisfied that he appeared to acquiesce in the justice of the reasons I had urged in its favor. It is also true, that he did state that the situation of the Agent at Buenos Ayres was somewhat different from mine. That Mr Forbes was being there as a public and accredited Agent of the United States, to whom appointment very important should be given, while for certain delicate & confidential duties, annexed to mine it was desirable that as little importance & publicity should be

given

to it either in this country or abroad as possible. This objection I understood to apply rather to the antecedent and formal allowance than to the merit of the claim, for I think the Secretary at the same time remarked, that such a rate of compensation, would seem to be disproportioned to the avowed objects of my agency.

This was my understanding of the conversation, which I refer to with the more confidence, as the President will, from his recollection of it, be able to correct any misapprehension into which I may have fallen.

Being allowed but a short interval at first, I made hasty preparations at some considerable pecuniary sacrifices, and was prepared at the day assigned. I accordingly transacted at Porto Rico and Porto Cabello the business confided to me, but by the stranding and wreck of the U. S. Brig Enterprize in which I sailed on her passage from the latter Port to the Island of Cuba, my voyage to that Island was frustrated, and I was compelled to return to the United States in the Autumn of that year. In this country I was detained by the Government in a state of readiness for instant departure, until the Spring of 1824, when I again left the United States for Cuba, & remained abroad until the beginning of last December. From that period until the present, I have also been kept in readiness by order of the President, to depart whenever required by him to the Island of Cuba.

I beg leave after this narrative, to offer a few additional reasons in justification of the claim in question.

The allowance is such as is made by law, to all the Diplomatic Agents of the U States, not of the first grade, at the various Governments of Europe; and has at the last Session of Congress, been established as the rate of compensation for those sent to the new States of America, and even to the comparatively unimportant State of Guatemala. The same allowance had been previously made

made I am informed to the Agents of the U. States at Buenos Ayres, Rio Janeiro, and I believe to other Agents in South America by the Executive Authority. The President is perfectly informed of the nature and extent of the duties confided to me, and of the manner in which they were executed, and will be able without difficulty, to eliminate that real, and comparative importance and value.

It is also an important circumstance in my case, that the expence of living in the West Indies, and particularly in Cuba, exceeds that of almost any other part of the World, in evidence of this fact it may be proper to mention, that Mercantile Commissions at Havana are double there charged in any other Country.

My expences were also greatly enhanced by a very severe illness in that place, which necessarily subjected me to extraordinary charges.

It may also be worthy of consideration that in the wreck of the Enterprize, I sustained a considerable loss, in the destruction of my Books, & the almost total ruin of my clothes & effects, by their being immersion in the Water.

In conclusion I will only add, that altho' I have in my Drafts on the Government limited myself to the Salary originally fixed by the President, it has with the practice of the most proper economy, been barely equal to my expences. And now after the service of five Summers in the most unpleasant & dangerous part of the World, it has resulted that I shall have to resume my profession de novo. For I have now become so completely divorced from the Bar of this District, as to render the expediency of my return to it a matter of serious doubt.

With a request that you will be pleased to submit this claim & the reasons above stated to the President, and with the fullest confidence that from yourself & from him it will receive all the consideration it merits.

I have the honor to subscribe myself
with entire respect
Your most obedient servant.
Thomas Randall

ALEXANDER McRAE

DECEMBER 15, 1823

EUROPE

Special Agents

Alex^r Mc Rae

Appointed December 15th 1823

Secret Agent to observe and report upon the proceedings of the Congress of European Powers expected to discuss the affairs of the South American States - 1823 - 25.

Instructions in Special Missions I 24-25

Paris 16. April 1824. 2

Dear Sir,

Having heard that Mr. Brown had reached this City, I left London on the 9th. and arrived here on the 12th. Inst. — I have thought it my duty to apprize you of this fact, that you might in it perceive the solicitude I feel, to obtain the most speedy & certain information on a particular topic: as yet however, no means of acquiring the information desired could possibly be within my reach. The English papers which you will no doubt regularly receive will make you acquainted with the fact, that the King of Spain has thro' an Autograph. Letter applied directly to the King of Great Britain in person, to assent to the holding of the proposed Congress on South American affairs. It was said, before I left London, that to that letter the British King had returned an answer by express, on Sunday week past, but what that answer was, remains yet unknown.

I left my private papers in London, and must therefore pray your indulgence as to the account of certain expences, which shall be rendered with promptitude whenever I can lay my hands upon those papers.

I shall have the honor to write you again by the next Packet. In the mean time I remain

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely Ab.m Rae.

The Honble. John Q. Adams
Secretary of State
of the U. States &c. &c. &c.

Special Express

Mr. Rae Alexander - Paris 16 April 1824

Read 4 June.

Paris 19. May 1824.

Dear Sir

No circumstances have yet occurred in Europe which ought to induce a change of the opinion I had adopted in reference to the holding of the Congress proposed by the King of Spain. The British Government has not yet recognized the independence of a single State of South America, but we already see Britain yet remains in the same happy "unfettered" condition, in which it was placed by the King's speech at the opening of Parliament in February — unless indeed that nation may have since become bound on the side of the holy alliance by the answer of his Sovereign to the Autograph letter lately addressed to him by the King of Spain. It is strange indeed, that altho' the fact was announced in the English Prints that the answer to that letter was given, and that it was to be expedited to Madrid by a special messenger, before I came to France, yet, to this day, nothing of the contents of that answer or of its import has been spread. As to the Continental Powers, it is nowhere pretended that any one of them is disposed to favor the independence of South America — on the contrary, from unquestionable sources, here and in England, believe that the King of Spain is actually receiving considerable aid (for the most part in money) from his faithful allies, to effect if possible the subjugation of "his Colonies" as the States are yet called, and many of the same persons believe, that all this is just as well known to his Britannic Majesty as to the King of Spain himself. The existence then of a spirit upon the part of any European Government hostile to the proposed Congress, cannot I think be fairly inferred from the temper or conduct of any of those Governments in relation to the contest between Spain & South America. On the other hand, there are in my judgement, strong circumstances to shew that the proposed Congress will be held, and perhaps in a very short time. These are — first, that the King of Spain anxiously wishes, and perseveres in demanding that a Congress shall be held.

Secondly

Secondly - that it has been announced in a Northern Gazette, & republished here, that and I perceive no cause why the fact should be questioned, that the Emperor of Russia has solemnly declared, that he never will recognize the independence of South America. - And lastly - that it has been stated in a Petersburg Journal, and been republished in papers here, that (for the benefit of the Baths it is pretended) She will soon repair to Carlsbad in Bohemia, and the same papers inform us, that the Emperor of Austria will meet his Imperial Mother at Carlsbad. It is also mentioned, that your old acquaintance Monsieur Pyde de Neuville, will find it convenient & agreeable about the same time to visit the same watering places. It is not for me to decide, whether such a meeting would or would not constitute a Congress of the character, so much desired, and earnestly called for by his most Catholic Majesty, but if I might be permitted to hazard a conjecture on the subject, I should pronounce it to be more than probable, that such a meeting would be the very Congress he has so long demanded; with this exception only, that the British Monarch will not be openly seen there in person or by Proxy.

Whenever I may receive further information on this interesting subject, worthy to be relied on, it shall be forthwith communicated.

With the highest respect & esteem I remain

Dear Sir

Yours truly A. M. McRae.

P.S. I have just read in the Journal de Paris, an article headed "Nuremberg 12. Mai", shewing that a meeting of certain Ministers of Powers of the Great Powers is expected to be held at Prague, in the course of the next month, to consult on the affairs of Spain Portugal &c. and not on the affairs of Greece. Enclosed I have the honor to forward that paper for your perusal. — A. M. McR.

The Secretary of State
of the U. States &c. &c.

Mr. Rae. Alexander

Paris 19. May 1824.

Mr Rae Alexander.

Paris, 19 May 1824

Read 12 July.

Proposed meeting of the Emperor of Russia &c at Carlsbad.

Specie Agents- Record in "Letter Book", 4

Alexander Mr Rae Esqr

Department of State
Washington 6 August 1824.

Sir.

I am directed by the President of the United States to inform you, that there appearing to be no further occasion for the Service, to which you were invited by my Letter of the [illegible] last, he wishes you to consider this Letter, as releasing you from any further attendance on that Service; and that from the time of your receiving it the compensation assigned to you for it will cease— He directs me at the same time to add that had the occasion contemplated when you received this charge been realized, his confidence in the integrity, ability and zeal with which you would have justified the trust reposed in you remains unimpaired.

I am, with great Respect, Sir, your very humble and obed^t Servt.

Secretary of State to

Alexander Mc Rae -

6 Aug. 1824.

original received in Paris
Oct. 31. 1824.
ack. Nov. 3. 1824.

8

London 9. Aug. 1824.

Dear Sir,

I have upon reflection concluded, that it would be advisable to ask your instructions upon certain parts of my account before I render it in form; and since it will be most convenient to receive your directions as to those particulars after my return to the United States, I have flattered myself that until then, it might be deemed sufficient that I should forward you statements exhibiting the entire amount of my expenditures for each quarter, from the time of my departure from Washington to the period when my services shall cease. In that hope, I have the honor herewith to enclose you a statement informally made, which embraces two quarters, commencing on the 17. of December 1823. and ending on the 17. of June last. My compensation being fixed & certain, it will be unnecessary I presume to advert to it specially until my accounts shall be ready for a final settlement.

Not a single step has been taken by this Government as far as I am informed since the date of my last, favoring in the least the cause of any State in South America. A rumour is afloat, & has even found its way into the Papers here, that the Emperor of Russia has, thro' his Minister at Madrid, assured the infatuated Ferdinand, that he will aid him with a fleet & a numerous & powerful

Army

army in his war against those States, but the report has not yet assumed such a shape as to render it by any means authentic. I shall now very soon pass over to Holland and thence to Germany, whence I hope I may be enabled e'er long, to transmit you correct & satisfactory information on this most interesting subject.

With the highest respect & esteem, I remain
Dear Sir,
Your mo. obed. Servt &c.
Abl. N. Rae.

The Honble.
John Quincy Adams
&c. &c. &c.

Mc. Rae Alexander

London 9. Augt. 1824

McRae Alexr.

London 9 August 1824 Read 2 Octobr.

Amount of A. McRae's expences from the 18. December 1823. To the 18. June 1824. The former of those days included.

1823.			Dollrs	Cents
December	18. To 24.	Stage & Steamboat hire from Washington To N. York and fare lodgings &c. $31.49/100 - - - -	31.	49
		Passage in the Packet Ship The Panthea Captain Bennett from N. York		
1824.				
Jany	15. To	bound to Liverpool $140. - - - - -	140.	--
		Boat hire first to Crookhaven & then to Skibbereen in Ireland, from The Panthea — and chaise, steam-boat, and coach hire afterwards, by the way of Dublin & Holy-head to Liverpool, with		
	25. To	fare lodgings &c. on the route £20. = $88.88 X/100	88.	88
		Coach hire — guards, coachmen and fare upon the road, from Liverpool		
	26. To	to London. £4.15. = $21.12/2	21	12.
			$ 281	49

1824.			Dollrs	Cents
Jany	26.	Brought forward - - - -	281.	49
		Board, lodging, washing, waiters		
April	9. To	for 72 days at 14/3 p. day £51.6. = $228.	228.	--
		Coach & steam-boat hire fare &c. from London by the way of Dover To		
	10. To	Calais £2.17.6 = $12:77. - - -	12.	77
		Coach hire from Calais to Paris including one day's board at the former & post of a day & night at the latter place — with		
	12. To	expences of Coachmen conducteurs and Servants — 115.55/100 Francs = $21.62. - - -	21.	62
		Board, lodging, washing, waiters &c. at Paris for 70 days at 15 francs 20. Cents p. day 1070. francs = $ 200.62.	200.	62.
			744.	50

X. Mr. John Berwick, an English Gentleman having a Family, was a fellow-passenger from N. York, & left the Panthea with me, in the hope that he would sooner arrive at home, by passing thro' Ireland & crossing to Holy-head or Liverpool, than by continuing in the Panthea with the head winds we were encountering & the Captain was of the same opinion. Having despatches for Mr. Rush which I supposed it might be important he should receive as soon as posible I did not hesitate about the propriety of going ashore in Ireland. Mr. Berwick continued with me till our departure from Liverpool — divided with me the expences of boat & chaise hire — and kept & settled the account of our expences from Stage to Stage — and the above is my proportion of those expences. —

E. excepted.

A. J. McRae.

NB. Sterling money is brought into the currency of the U. S. at 4/6 to the dollar, and the money of France is reckoned at 5⅓ francs to the dollar.

London 9. Aug. 1824.

Dear Sir,

I shall now very soon leave England for Germany, and from thence, I hope it may be in my power to communicate to yourself or to the Secretary of State before the meeting of Congress, full and correct information concerning the views of the Holy Allies in reference to the states of South America: I think had I been in the vicinity of the late Diplomatic Convention held at Johannisberg, I should probably have ascertained some facts of no small importance on that subject, but Mr Brown was of a different opinion, & of course declined instructing me to attend there. It is at present my purpose unless prevented by a stronger call to some other place, to visit Prince Metternich's neighbourhood; and I shall not yet despair of obtaining valuable information on the subject of his late deliberations.

I shall without one moment's delay, transmit to yourself or Mr. Adams an account of any discovery of moment it may be my good fortune to make.

With the highest respect & esteem, I am

Dear Sir

Your mo. obedt. Servt. &c.

Alx McRae.

His Excellency

James Monroe.

&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Rae, Alexander

London 9. Augt 1824.

I rejoice sincerely in the belief from all that I hear, that there will finally be an Union & cooperation between the friends of Mr. Adams Mr. Calhoun & General Jackson. Thus will yourself and your friends, and the glory of your administration, and the happiness, security, and prosperity of the Nation, be sustained & ensured, against a combination which I beleive to be the meanest, the most detestable, & the most wicked that ever was formed, in any age or Country.

I hope my next may inform you, that in passing thro' Holland or whilst in Germany, I have disposed of your Kentucky lands for a good price.

Paris 3.rd November 1824.

Dear Sir,

I was detained by a severe cold, contracted soon after the date of my last, several weeks beyond the period at which I had intended to leave London, so that I did not actually return to the Continent 'til early in the month of September. On croping the Channel, in conformity to the plan which had been adopted, I pursued the most convenient route to Frankfort, stopping a few days in Holland, in the hope that I should be overtaken by Count Rederna, a gentleman whose acquaintance I had made at Paris, and who had given me reason to expect that he would meet me at Amsterdam, & travel with me afterwards thro' Germany. To my great disappointment however, matters of a private nature detained him at Paris, & deprived me of the advantages I might have derived from his Society. It is proper that I should state to you the grounds upon which I selected such a companion. — The Count is a native of Prussia, and was, a long time ago, for several years its Ambassador at London — his mind, education, and character, entitle him to high respect, and few men have in my opinion a better knowledge of the human heart than he possesses. He is moreover Master of several languages — amongst others, of the German, French, English & Spanish. Besides, I do firmly believe that he is sincerely attached to liberal principles, and is a warm friend to the prosperity of every nation which cherishes such principles. In addition to these circumstances there was another, which satisfied me that from the friendly aid of such a companion I might derive the most important advantages, and that was, that he could at pleasure, have himself specially introduced to any Individual or Society on the Continent. It is true, that we have no positive information that the particular event which we anticipated has actually occured in any shape whatever, and therefore, the inconveniences arising from the Count's detention at Paris have perhaps been fewer than they otherwise might have been, but had we travelled together, I have no doubt he would have obtained

for

for me every benefit, on the score of information particularly, which might have been desirable, in the interesting Country which I visited. — I yet hope in a short time to receive from that Quarter information of value, thro' another highly respectable character (Mr. LeRoux) with whom it was my good fortune to become acquainted during my stay at Mayence. Whilst I was awaiting the result of an inquiry he was diligently prosecuting for me, which, from its nature, required some time and much caution, Mr. Sheldon wrote me, saying he had received a letter for me "from a certain Quarter" which might be of importance, and asked how he should dispose of it. Fearing to encounter the hazards possibly attendant on its transmission by Mail, I requested him to retain it for me until my arrival in Paris, and supposing it might indeed be of very great importance, I came hither in a few days afterwards for the express purpose of receiving it. On the day of my arrival, Sunday the 31st ult. I applied for the letter referred to by Mr. Sheldon, and had the honor to receive yours of the 6th of August.

Permit me here to acknowledge the unfeigned gratification I derive from the favorable sentiments espoused by the President, which you have been pleased to convey in so kind a manner, concerning my fitness & solicitude to perform the trust reposed in me, and to assure both yourself & him, that with a high sense of gratitude for the confidence with which you have both honored me, I shall hereafter during my stay in Europe, with much pleasure by voluntary acts, as heretofore I have done by acts of positive duty, endeavor to shew that your confidence has not been misplaced.

From all appearances at this day, it certainly does seem to be fair now to conclude, that the present year will pass away without the occurrence of a certain event, unless indeed that event did actually happen, at a time, & place, and in a manner, of which our friends here & in England were unapprised. — Be that however as it may, there can be no doubt of this fact, that the holy

Allies

Allies are secretly affording every aid in their power for the accomplishment of a certain object, and, but for the President's message of the last winter, that assistance would e'er this, have been afforded in a manner the most open & direct. Such I know was decidedly General Lafayette's opinion, for I heard him express it in conversation (at Mr. Irving's) in this City during the Summer. — Speaking of the message, in reference to its influence on the South American question, I perfectly remember, that in a spirit of enthusiasm he observed, that he did believe "it was the best little bit of paper that God had ever permitted any man to give to the World". Of this I am certain, that no obstacle to the subjugation of the South American States would be interposed by the British Government, even if the allied powers were to act openly against them. — Its course in relation to the great contest has been uniformly ambidextrous so that it might at any moment go as well to the right as the left, & vice versa, according to circumstances." For the reasons assigned in former letters, I have for many months believed, that all its professions of good will to the States of South America were worse than flimsy — that they were deceitful, and utterly false. Fortunately tho for the struggling Heroes of South America, and for the happiness of mankind, the feelings of the people of Britain are with them. Those feelings honestly & boldly proclaimed in a thousand ways, manifested a spirit of deadly hatred against the miserable despotism of Spain, and a real cordial & unchangeable for the success of the Patriots. To that zeal and that spirit alone, so honorable to the British Nation, am I compelled under all the information I can obtain, to attribute the observance of an affected neutrality on the part of its Government in the South American contest. Soon however more light will in that respect be shed on the sincerity of that Government. Col. Hamilton its agent, is said to have returned home with the most favorable report concerning the stability of the Columbian Government. It remains then to be seen, whether that

report

report will immediately produce the result promised by Mr. Canning's fine speeches, or whether some new & special causes may not in the mean time have arisen, to render another report necessary to the recognition of that State. I hope to receive information in a short time, which which may enable me to make to you a more satisfactory communication as regards the great object of my Enquiry. I am truly happy for many causes that the Nation's Guest is with you. His information will enable him, and his philanthropic spirit will no doubt prompt him, to offer for your consideration, some most valuable suggestions on the subject to which you had directed my attention.

With the highest respect I am

Dear Sir,

Truly yours

Alx. McRae.

I ought before I close this letter, to acknowledge the obligations I am under to Mr. Rush and Mr. Brown, for the civilities & kindness they have been both pleased to extend to me since I came to Europe. I sincerely wish to each of them the successful accomplishment of the great objects they respectively pursue, and on their return home, the highest rewards which can be justly due to their important services. From the Secretary of legation at London, Mr. Smith, with whom it has been my good fortune to become intimately acquainted, I have also uniformly received the utmost kindness, and the most friendly attention. Surely his Country will do justice to his long continued, unremitted & faithful services — of the exemplary constancy & fidelity of which I have been myself often an eye-witness whilst in England. In conferring on him however a better situation, I must candidly declare, that I know not how his place could be equally well supplied. — None can be more zealous or faithful in the discharge of every duty, & on the score of ability, the experience of many years has procured for him advantages over most of our Countrymen.

The Honble. The Secretary of State
of The U. States &c. &c. &c.

Dear Sir, London 4. January 1825. 16

You will have been informed before this can reach you, that he who was late the most powerful Monarch on Earth, has bid an everlasting "adieu to all his greatness". The first accounts published here in relation to that event, were contradictory & altogether uncertain. Nothing seemed to be positively ascertained, as to the time, or manner, or even the place of Alexander's death. It appears now however to be generally understood, that he died of a sore throat, at Taganrog, on the first day of the last month. — That he died of a sore throat, may be very true, but I have neither read nor heard anything which convinces me that it was occasioned by a cold. — Men in power here ascribe it to a cold, and so they will probably at every other Court in Europe, tho' they should believe, or even know the contrary; for the mere idea of any other than a natural death to a crowned Head, would be most abhorrent to the Legitimates. Constantine too, who attempted his Brother's life, only a few years ago, altho' by that Brother's death, he has at length succeeded to the Empire, remains yet at Warsaw, closetted - a Prey to sorrows which admit of no relief! — And this solemn Mockery, is regarded as furnishing clear proof, that he does lament in good earnest, the natural death of a brother whom he truly & most tenderly loved! — I would as soon believe that Henry the second, of this religious Kingdom, sincerely mourned the death of Thomas a Becket — But instead of submitting my conjectures on this all-important event, or my speculations on the yet more important consequences to which it may lead, I take the liberty to offer for your perusal, a well written editorial article on those Topics, in a Sunday Paper called "The News," which I have the pleasure of herewith forwarding to you. — I send you also the last

number

number of "The Sunday Times" containing accusations of the blackest die against Constantine, under the title of - "Anecdotes of a Russian Monster" - which, if true, demonstrate his fitness for any crime, however infamous or execrable.

For a few days past, I have read with encreasing alarm for the fate of the poor Greeks, the contradictory statements published in reference to the success of their struggles. Their public securities had fallen to a very low price indeed; but in one day they experienced a rise of 5 p. Cent, immediately after it was known that Constantine was the Emperor of Rusia. Extremely anxious to be informed of the latest authentic accounts concerning the condition of that suffering but brave people, I addreped a note for that purpose to Mr. Bowring Secretary of the Greek Committee, asking at the same time, his opinion as to the influence likely to be produced on their cause by the death of Alexander. Mr. B. politely returned the answer which I have now the pleasure of enclosing for your inspection. It would have been more satisfactory had it been more in detail; but Mr. Bowring is extensively engaged in commercial pursuits, and no London Merchant has leisure at this time, to turn aside from his ordinary occupation. No apology will I assure myself be necesary for the freedom I have now a second time used in writing to you, on subjects on which I have believed it would be agreeable to you to receive respectful communications from any of your countrymen.

Sincerely wishing you health & happiness I remain,

Dear Sir

Most truly yours A. M. McRae

The Honble.
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
&c &c &c

The Honble.
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
of the U. States of America
Washington

Mc Rae, Alex.
4. January 1825.

18

5 Abbey Square
3 January 1826

Dear Sir

Our last accounts from Spain speak with great applause of the Lexington, the Independencia who have been very busy that a band of devoted Landsmen could do — & we hope with final success.

But the Government still turns a deaf ear to all the offers of assistance while various generous strangers have been making the Aristocracy are universal — self-idolizing & consequently the people wonderfully meritorious considering the miserable education they

Lord of the circumstances in
which they have been placed. I fear
the vessels built in your country will
never reach Greece — owing to the total
improvidence of their superintendents
Greek agents — & that Lord Cochrane's
ship will be long retarded

I do not augur good from the
accession of Constantine. Impossible to
say more — & if the Greeks are to wear
the fetters of Russia instead of that of
Turkey I fear they will be found more
intolerable Yrs truly

J Bowring.

Private.

London 13. Decr. 1825.

Dear Sir,

I am most reluctantly compelled to remain in Europe yet a few months longer for the purpose of bringing to a close some private affairs, which must if posible be arranged before my depar=ture. During all that time I shall be simply in attendance, waiting 'til others shall be ready to act. Whenever they shall be prepared two or three days will be fully sufficient for all that is to be done upon my part.

Thus circumstanced, I have hoped that the public interests might require the temporary appointment of some agency in Europe, for which I might be deemed competent; and that in that case I might be honored with the trust by yourself or the President.

Whilst such a confidence would be highly gratifying and would confer a particular obligation upon me, I would certainly endeavor to prove in a satisfactory manner that it had not been mis=placed. May I ask of you the favor to mention the subject to the President? —

As I may possibly find occasion to write you again before I leave Europe, some letter in character like that which accompanies this, intended only for your inspection & that of the President or any member of the Cabinet, I beg leave to remark, that I shall not in any such case think it by any means necessary to in=timate that the letter is written in confidence, but will only dis=tinguish with the word private, or confidential, any particular letter which may be intended for your inspection exclusively or for that also of such other person or persons as may be specially named or referred to.

With the highest respect,
I have the Honor to be,
Dear Sir
Most faithfully yours. Alx. M.c Rae.

— ii —

The Honble. Henry Clay
Secretary of State
&c. &c. &c.

"Private"

Mc Rae Alex

London, 13 Decr 1825

Rec^d 19 Feb: 1826

Mc Rae Alexander

London 13 Decr 1825.

Office.

Private.

The Honble.
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
of the U. States of America
Washington.

Enclosure — Missing

copy of note —

Canning to Spanish Minister

24

22

London 13. Decr. 1825

Dear Sir,

I have not for many months believed it possible that I could add to the information you were daily receiving thro' the ordinary channels of your regular correspondence, concerning the wishes and the views of European Governments in regard to the independence of South America, or I would from time to time most cheerfully have communicated to you such scraps of intelligence on that subject as my limited resources enabled me to glean. I believe I may however now safely venture to congratulate you, on the certain success which will finally crown the valiant struggles of our patriotic neighbours - and I think we may the more rejoice, because, this glorious result, the harbinger I trust of eventual freedom and happiness to all Nations, will be achieved contrary to the wishes of all the Governments on Earth (called civilized) excepting only that of our own beloved Country. It has indeed been formerly imagined by some, that this Government was inclined to favor the independence of South America, but such was never my opinion, at least since I came to Europe, and my sentiments in that respect, several times avowed in letters to your distinguished Predecessor, have at length received their full confirmation from Mr. Canning himself. The declaration contained in that gentleman's note of March 25. to the Spanish minister, the Chevalier de los Rios, must put that question forever at rest, with all who admit that Mr. Canning's declaration is worthy of credence. I beg leave to quote his very words — "The separation of the Spanish Colonies from Spain, has been neither our work nor our wish. Events in which the British Government had no participation, decided that separation, which we are still of opinion might have been averted, if our Counsels had been listened to in time". — Most true indeed. —

That

That separation, was neither "the work" nor "the wish" of the British Government, and when at length it was accomplished, in spite of their opposing Counsels most kindly offered to the "beloved Ferdinand" then, not til then, yielding (according to Mr. Canning's own favorite expression) to "the change of circumstances & the progress of events," which their wicked counsels & perfidious schemes could not control, they have most unwillingly, at "the eleventh hour," vouch-safed to recognize the independence of some of the States in South America.

I beg you to be assured, that I have not invited your attention thus specially to this graceless act of recognition, nor to Mr. Canning's declaration concerning it, merely for the gratification of confirming opinions which I have heretofore advanced concerning the views & the policy of the British Government.

I have been chiefly induced to take this liberty, under the impression, that as may regard future high interests of our country, these may be all-important circumstances to be adverted to - indeed, that with a view to a good understanding & perpetual amity between ourselves and our Neighbours they never should be forgotten.

You could scarcely believe it possible, yet it is unquestionably true, that already, in the teeth of Mr. Canning's declaration which I have quoted, his Britannic Majesty's subjects, every where joined by the public Prints, are boasting that this Government took the lead in establishing the independence of South America - indeed, that its independence is principally if not altogether due to the exertions for that purpose made by the British Government. Such pretensions having been unblushingly set up here, for purposes not to be misunderstood, I have supposed it to be more than probable that they would be impudently asserted hereafter before the Governments of South America, in support of claims to peculiar advantages, which the ambition or cupidity of this Government may prompt it

it to seek under commercial or other treaties: indeed it would seem that the British Government is invited, nay almost urged by the great Bolivar himself, to prefer against the Republic of Colom=bia any claims, however extravagant or capricious, which the most unbounded avarice or the most inordinate ambition could suggest.

How astonishing it is, that in reference to the recognition of that Republic, an act reluctantly done - an act extorted from the British Government by "the change of circumstances and the progress of events," so good & so wise a man, should have been be=trayed into such an extravagance of encomium on that Government a wildness of praise infinitely transcending the merit of the best act ever recorded in its Annals. Every friend of principle, and every true friend & admirer of the illustrious hero & incorruptible patriot, must have read with deep regret from under his hand, the unearned compliment paid to Great Britain at the expense of other nations & particularly of Republics, conferring upon her as he did, the preeminent Title - "the Mistress of Nations!" — It is surely quite natural that he should be delighted, at seeing all nations putting their seals to the great work which he has so glori=ously finished, but no paroxism of the most rapturous joy, could excuse anything from the Washington of South America so fulsome as the title thus gratuitously bestowed on Britain. But this blunder of the Liberator's (to give it the mildest possible denomi=nation) is not the only source of mortification to us - not the only evidence of a seeming propensity on the part of our neighbours to prefer the friendship of Britain to that of all other nations.

There certainly has been, and I have no reason to believe that a change for the better has yet occurred, a sort of department border=ing on obsequiousness upon the part of some of those deputed by

by the Governments of South America to this Court - a department, neither reputable to themselves, nor honorable to the States which they represent. In short, I am fully persuaded, that some of those gentlemen are very far from justly appreciating the generous and the noble stand taken by our Government, single handed, in their behalf, whilst with a wilful blindness to whatever has been equivocal or perfidious in the policy of Great Britain, worshipping her power & her wealth, they appear resolved to obtain her countenance, even without securing her protection, at any sacrafice whatever. It is due however to Mr. Rocafuerte, that I should declare, that from all which I have heard concerning him, I am perfectly satisfied that he has never been liable to this reproach. — Such a proneness on the part of some of the Representatives of our Sister Republics, to neglect us their neighbours & only sincere friends, and to fly to the Siren-embraces of a Power uniformly opposed to their very existence, presents indeed a dismal picture of the infirmity of poor human nature, and this Government will endeavor to profit of the frailty.

From a contemplation however so melancholy & so sickening, I have turned with heart-felt satisfaction, to the view of the certain efficacy with which you will employ Mr. Canning's invaluable admission, to defeat every plan of his Government however visible, to bring evil upon our neighbours, or to sow the seeds of discord between them & us. I supposed it highly probable that you were in posession of a copy of Mr. Canning's note referred to, but as there have been two or three different versions of it, I determined more than a fortnight ago, to procure & send you as soon as possible the copy which I understood was universally admitted to be correct. Having just succeeded in finding a Paper which contains that copy I with very great pleasure

do

do myself the honor of immediately forwarding it to you.

Relying on your indulgence to excuse the freedom I have at the same time used in troubling you with this effusion,

I remain, with the highest esteem & regard,

Dear Sir,

Your mo. obed.t Serv.t & A.M.c Rae.

I had the honor to call on Mr. King our worthy Minister a few days ago, and it gives me very sincere pleasure to inform you, that his health is so far reestablished, that he can now without difficulty perform the important & arduous duties of his elevated Station.

Four days ago I called on Mr. Bowring the Clerk of the Greek Committee, who is well known to Mr. Rush, & enquired of him what was the actual state of affairs in Greece. - I told him at the same time that I should in a few days write to a friend in Washington who would I knew be very thankful for the latest correct intelligence from that Quarter; & asked whether he had any objection to giving me a written Memorandum on the subject - upon which he politely took his pen, & very quickly handed me the enclosed note. - "We must all deeply deplore the tidings it conveys, but I hope we shall hereafter find Mr. Bowring's opinion to be well founded - that "there is no reason for <u>despairing</u> —."

Lord Cochrane is now in France, & ere long, we shall I trust have it publicly announced, that he is at Sea actualey embarked in the service of the Greeks.

The Hon.ble Henry Clay
Secretary of State
&c. &c. &c.

Mc Rae, Alexander

London 13 Dec 1825.

The Honorable.
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
of The U. States of America
Washington.

Mc Rae Alex
London 13 Dec 1825
Recd 19 Feb: 1826.
Confidential & political.

this accounts from Smyrna are of a very gloomy character
though there is no reason for despairing of the ultimate
success of the Greeks — (I should rather say that it is quite
certain the Turkish power is wholly unequal to their
extirpation) yet the melancholy fact cannot be denied
nor any longer concealed that the dissensions of the Chiefs —
improvidence & sometimes worse than worthlessness in the management
of their resources — & an indisposition to avail themselves of the

T. B. ROBERTSON

DECEMBER 7, 1825

CUBA

Magnolia near Baton Rouge 19 Jan 1826

My Dear Sir

I received a week or ten days ago at New Orleans, your official communication of the 7th ult. with its enclosures, and by the last mail here at my country residence, your letter of the 12 - Mr Brent has also written to me lately. However grateful I feel for the motives which have induced you to offer me the mission to Cuba, and however respectable the salary & situation - I cannot prevail on myself to accept it. I do not like the secret nature of the employment - and although it would afford me pleasure to serve the govt, and at the same time to take a step by which my health might be improved and my life prolonged - yet there are reasons which I can not make to either of these considerations

You know my course and character - I may be mistaken in the estimation in which they are generally held - From the standing of many of those who, for a series of years have

been distinguished by the honorable notice of the Govt, it is probable I am. yet you yourself have said (on perusal of a mutual friend) to our Minister, (who by the by never forgave me to the early introduction of the question of South American independence) that no man was better entitled than myself to an embassy to one of the Spanish american Govts. An honorable office, in some healthy climate, would be very agreeable to me - but I cannot, tho sinking under a long and protracted disease, and standing probably on the verge of existence, consent to place myself in a situation of doubtful respectability, of dreaded inferiority, or in fact which you almost pronounce unworthy of me, which of yourself you would not have offered me, and which I dare believe you are not very anxious I should accept.

England and France have avowed and public agents at Havana - nor do I think a secret appointment necessary to enable an individual on the spot, to obtain and transmit such intelligence, as the interest of this Govt might require, the day has

purpose away when even a Spanish dark storm can close the prying eye, or stifle the tell tale tongue.

I am no vain man in thus openly laying my views & sentiments before you - but I should not have done so, but for the introduction of the subject by yourself, and for the interest you have always taken in my concerns & happiness.

Be pleased to make known to the President, in the most respectful manner, my non acceptance of the commission which he has been pleased to offer me; and believe me with much sincerity & respect

Dear Sir

Your friend

& Obt Sr

W. H. Roberts Jr

Hon'ble

H Clay

Roberston J. B.

Magnolia near Baton Rouge

19 January 1826

Read 16 Feb.

declines agency at Natchez.

DANIEL P. COOK

MARCH 12, 1827

CUBA

Special Agents. 0

Daniel P. Cook, Confidential
Agent to Havana, Cuba.

Correspondence &c. & letters
from Ninian Edwards, re-
porting Mr Cook's death &c.

1827 & 1828

Instructions to Cook are in
Instructions to U.S. Ministers XI 267 et seq.

Nov. 26/81.

00

Missing

Clay to Vivas, garrison general of Cuba - 14 March 1827 sent via Cook.

Vivas to Clay 4 or 5 or 6 May 1827 - sent via Cook.

Cook to Clay 9 June 1827

Cook to Brent 12 July or Aug 1827

Clay to Minian Edwards 21 Nov 1827

Enclosure of Edwards to Clay 2 Jan 1828

Washington
March 12. 1827.

The Hon H. Clay
Secy State

Sir

Having taken medical advice and consulted my own feelings in relation to the matter, I have concluded to proceed with the least possible delay to Sea, and thence to Havannah. In taking the advice referred to I of course limited my remarks to the condition of my health entirely. Could your instructions, therefore, which are intended to point out to me the duties that I will to discharge, be prepared this day, and every other point adjusted to which you adverted yesterday, I should be glad to be on the road tomorrow to such port, as from which I should probably meet with

the earliest passage to the place of my destination.

The eminent advantage that my Physician expects me to derive from the voyage as well as from a residence in some of the West India Islands, has influenced me to take the course I have stated in preference to staying by Illness, and consequently to submit myself to those contingencies which may or may not allow me in June or July next to visit my family -

As you are about to be engaged today I concluded this note would be more convenient to you & the President both than a personal interview. Before my departure however, I shall as myself the honor of calling on you both.

I am with the greatest respect
&c. &c. &c. Dan'l Cook

Cook Daniel P.

Wash, 12 March 1824.

Read for
day.

of Capts to appointment
of Confidential
Agent at Havana

The Hon
Henry Clay
Secy State &c &c

Recd 14 March,

Baltimore March 11. 1827

Sir

I had the honor of receiving by this days mail the packet which you directed to me with enclosures to Brady Barton as well as to myself. Finding the prospect to be bad of obtaining, within a reasonable time, a passage from this port, the Judge & myself have determined on proceeding directly to Philadelphia, where we are informed a vessel will be in readiness to sail in 3. or 4. days. My visit this time has not proved prejudicial.

Be pleased to accept assurances of my highest respect & consideration.

Danl. P. Cook

Hon H. Clay.

Cook Daniel P.

Baltimore March 16 1827

will proceed to ~~Philadelphia~~ Disembark

FREE

The Hon
H. Clay
Secy of State
Washington

Belleville Illinois
Nov 1. 1827

Dear Sir,

You will, doubtless, before this reaches you, have heard of the death of Mr Cook. Shortly after his return from Cuba, his health being greatly improved, he set out from this place for Washington City, where he considered his presence highly important to the Govt. In a few days however, after his departure, he was attacked with the dysentary, which, though several times so checked as to admit of his prosecuting his journey, returned upon him so repeatedly as to prevent his getting any further than Lexington, and finally terminated his existence on the 15th ult. His family have just returned to this place, bringing with them, papers which he had intended personally to deliver to you, and among them a letter from Governor Veves, which he was compelled to pledge his honor to deliver to you with his own hands, and which previous to his death he expressed a great desire to send or by a confidential messenger. I learnt from him before he left this place, that Govr Veves considered his situation as so delicate & critical, that nothing but such a promise could have induced him to send the letter at all. I shall therefore keep it in my possession, until I can have the honor of knowing your pleasure on the subject.

I also transmit herewith, a part of a letter which, with the aid of his wife, as his amanuensis, Mr Cook had commenced writing to you. & a copy of his letter to Govr Veves, which latter may throw some light on the nature of the Govrs letter

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your Mo Ob Sts

Ninian Edwards

Hon. H. Clay

Sec. of State.

Edwards Mexican – Belleville (Ill.)

1 Nov. 1827

Rec. 20. " —4

Death of Mr. Cook. &c
with Letters from Mr. Cook.

To be submitted to
the Secretary. H.C.

Being disappointed in my expectations in relation to the salutary effects of the climate of Cuba upon my health, and believing it even at this warm season to be prejudicial I propose leaving Havanna for the US in the course of 3 or 4 days. I shall in a short time after my return visit Washington, and if there be any thing which it may be useful for the Cabinet at that place to know, and which you may think proper to communicate connected with the subject referred to in the confidential letter of Mr Clay of the 14 March last, addressed to you, and which I did myself the honor of delivering, it would be highly gratifying to the administration through me, to be informed of it. It is the earnest desire of the Govt. of the US. as I am fully authorised to say, to see the Island preserved in a state of tranquility, and progress in that prosperity, which it has for years past so bountifully enjoyed: and at

no period, permit me to say, more than since it has been placed under your authority and protection. In the political condition of a region so extensive so fertile and so contiguous to the US. as the Island of Cuba that Govt cannot but feel a deep interest and in a free commercial intercourse with it regulated by fair, and as nearly as may be, principles, of reprocity. It has an interest, the magnitude of which, can best be ascertained by a reference to the tabular Statements of the trade between the two countries— The vigilant attention of the US therefore, to every event calculated to effect the condition of the Island it ought to be frankly confessed is the result of interest = but that sort of interest which it is the duty of every nation to guard and protect— Indeed, I think I shall not impair the force of the sentiments of the US, so frankly expressed by Mr Clay in his letter to you, towards the Island when I say that the "Solicitude" which he says is felt by them for the preservation of the Island in its present condition results as well from the deep interest they feel in preserving and promoting their own peace and prosperity as from that which they feel in relation to Cuba

Occupying then as they do the relations both

of friendship and interest toward the Island and of this friendship it is not supposed by the Govt of the US. that your Excy entertains any doubt. it was deemed advisable in a frank manner to ask to be informed whether the means in posfession of the Island, are adequate to repel any attack that may posfibly be made upon it either by any European Power, or by the New states of America, and which might if not succesfully resisted lead to a change prejudicial to it as well as to the US.

Having made me the confidential organ through which this enquiry has been submitted I feel anxious, to obtain for the Govt with your own valuable opinion on the subject, such detailed statement of those means as you in the exercise of your very sound discretion may think it not improper to impart to me and as must constitute the basis of any opinion that may be formed - The very prompt manner in which you gave me a general answer to the above inquiries was gratifying as well on account, of the spirit in which it was made as the nature of the answer itself and if there be no paramount considerations of official duty to restrain you, I have no doubt that you will be

willing either verbally or otherwise to give me the information which I have the honor now to request.

Altho in consequence of unforeseen events I have not, as I intended when I had the honor of waiting on your Excy, visited the country, but have remained constantly from that time to the present in Havana yet in accordance with a suggestion which fell from you at the interview referred to I have considered it my duty, to deny myself the honor since that time of calling to pay my respects to you, which, under other circumstances, I should have been anxious and pleased to do, and it is in the further observance of that suggestion that I now make this communication in writing

In such form as may best suit the convenience of your Excy I shall be happy to receive any communication you may be induced to make

I have the honor to be with the highest respect and consideration your very obt

A Copy of A. D. Sloo's letter to the Secretary of State
with Mr. Irwin's Despatch
Letter of Nov 18 1829.

Early in June last I sat out from home, re-
Washington, for the purpose of delivering the commun-
ication to you from Genl Rivas referred to in my letter
to you of the 9th June, and of laying before you a
full statement of such other information as I obtained
conformably to my instructions while in Cuba and
for the further purpose of explaining the reason of my
return in so short a time after my departure from the
U.S. All these things I considered it my duty to attend
to as soon after my arrival at home as practicable. But
I had not progressed far on my Journey until I was
seized with the Dysentary, a new disease, which super-
added to the remains of the old, prostrated me until
my life was entirely dispaired of even by my own family
and from the effects of that I have not yet entirely reco-
vered. It has kept me so feeble even to travel more than
a few miles a day and thus have I been prevented
from doing that which otherwise should have long
since been done

The personal delivery of Genl Vives letter I did consider a very necessary and proper duty to perform I did so because he expected it, and probably would not otherwise have written — But as I find I am not in a situation to proceed with any degree of comfort or convenience to Washington, I presume I should not even by him be complained of for adopting the course I have rather than submit to further delay in its delivery. The manner in which the letter was elicited you will see by reference to my letter to him of a copy of which is herewith forwarded and of the propriety of making such a communication I must leave you to judge observing however, that he in no wise appeared displeased at it.

I arrived in Havanna on the 6th April and left it on the 6 May — During my voyage out my health improved most rapidly, and on my arrival, I was able to walk all over the City. I was consequently in a condition to prosecute the object of my visit, and I did so as promptly as I could with propriety. Learning that the rainy season would soon be coming on, and that almost all intercourse would then cease between town and country during its continuance I determined to remain in the City as I could be gaining information and I was

the more willing to do so as I still continued to enjoy the advantages of my improved health. In the course of two weeks however, I began to yield a little to the climate and finally before I determined, to leave there, until full Dr Osgood a celebrated Bostonian who has been 20 years in Havanna told me most positively that he should have to bury me there if I attempted to remain through the summer and prefsed me immediately to leave the Island expreſsing the opinion however, that a winter residence there would be of great service to me Dr Osgood's high reputation, and the deep interest that he seemed to take in my recovery as well as my own feelings forbid my rejecting his advice and without refering therefore to my suggestions to you in relation to my return during the summer at the time of our last interview I presume I shall stand amply justified in doing as I have in this particular.

After my determination to return, I met with no American, who was about returning to any of the Eastern Cities, in any very short time, to whom I felt free to confide any important communication to you and an omiſsion in the State department, to furnish a key to the bypher given me prevented me from making any use of that - and hence you will

also see the cause of neglect up to that time on my part in not writing - and subsequently it has been owing to my ill health. I have much information already collected too extensive to arrange and transmit and as it is far from being full I prefer postponing its transmission even until my report shall be made at large at a further day. I shall leave home in all October and it may be better to forward such directions &c as you may wish to give me to that place not omitting the key

The deep and permanent interest which the US have in the commerce and political condition of the Island, as well as the very interesting nature of the inquiries which I have been charged to make induce me to desire to persevere in the task I have undertaken until I shall be able to render such a report as will be useful to the Government and creditable to myself. It will be needless to say that the extravagant cost of living at Havanna and still more so when travelling in the country renders it necessary to have a considerable amount of funds at command - such is the fact however and as Mrs Cook will accompany me little less than my compensation will be sufficient to set out

with. I must therefore beg the favour of you to have 11
my accounts settled up to the 1st Nov[r] and a duplicate draft or check remitted to me at New Orleans for the amount. The first advance that was made to me I am desirous should be considered as on account of travelling expences. If it cannot be I fear the amount that will be remitted will not be such a sum as will be necessary for me to have in posession: this however is submitted to your discretion. On the 12th of the current month I addressed a letter to Mr Brent which I presume he laid before you. In that letter I stated it to be my intention, within a few days, to set out for Washington, but circumstances beyond my control rendered it impossible for me to do so ~~at this present~~ and to delay it to a later period would interfere so much with that season of the year, during which, it is so desirable to be in Cuba that I hope I shall be considered excusable for the course I have adopted.

13

6

Dear Sir

Belleville Illinois
Jan 2. 1828

I have the honor herewith to transmit to You, agreeably to your request, the letter to which yours of the 21 ult. last is presumed to allude

upon examination of a mass of other papers which were left with this letter they appear to consist of statistical & other notes or memoranda which are unintelligible and were doubtless made with a view to the making of a very comprehensive report to You which is known to have been intended by their author.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Sir
Your Ob. Sv.

Ninian Edwards

Hon: H. Clay
Sec. of State
Washington City

Edwards Ninian

Belleville, Illinois, 2 Jan: 1828

Recd 15 Feby.

with a letter from Gov

Wirt

Read with R. M. Harrison's letter of 27 September 1828.

AN ACCOUNT

of a

MISSION

or

TOUR of OBSERVATION and INQUIRY

throughout the

BRITISH West India COLONIES.

By Command

of the

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

Commenced, the 28th July 1827

and closed

the 2d June 1828.

BY ROBERT MONROE HARRISON.

CONSUL of the UNITED STATES,

for the Island of

Saint Bartholomew.

ROBERT M. HARRISON

MAY 14, 1827

BRITISH WEST INDIES

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF ARMAMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Harrison, Robert Monroe
1827 - 1828

Vol 1 Antigua Cons. Despatches
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Vol 1 Demerara Cons. Despatches
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Consulate of the U States
Antigua 19th July 1827

Sir

Being now a little more at leisure and an opportunity offering for the US via St Thomas I am induced to resume the subject of the appointment of the President of the US as conveyed in your Despatch of the 16th ult May which with its several Enclosures I could only do myself the Honor of briefly acknowledging on the 14th inst.

I confess Sir pressed as I was for time on that occasion I very uncourteously omitted to offer you my personal thanks for the very handsome and flattering terms in which your official communication was couched I assure you I entertain a just sense of the obligation I am under (of which I hope to be able at some future day to convince you) and I trust I shall stand acquitted in your better judgement of what my seeming neglect might possibly have suggested.

With respect to the subject matter itself I beg leave to observe that I should have felt proud in being selected under any circumstance and for any service by the distinguished Individual who now presides at the head of our Government but when I consider the high and important mission to which your letter refers the sentiments which are expressed in my favor, the feelings which seem to have prompted the nomination of me in <u>particular</u> and above all the Presidents extreme condescension in making the matter one of <u>choice</u> rather than compulsion I must indeed lack sensibility if I do not feel and express what I feel - flattered on the occasion. As a servant of Government, in the hands, and at the disposal of the executive, the wishes of the President I have always considered as equivalent to a <u>command</u>, but in a case where all authority has been

laid

laid aside my own personal advancement consulted, and when I have been in the kindest manner <u>invited</u> to accept the office it was not possible to pause or consider which course necessary and incumbent on me to adopt, I therefore Sir unhesitatingly and with feelings of the liveliest gratitude accept the post which has been thus assigned me, and I shall forthwith proceed as I before notified to carry the plan chalked out for my guidance as far as may be in my power into full and complete effect and while I make it my study to act up to the strict letter of my instructions, I shall not fail to observe that private caution and discretion so necessary in an undertaking involving interests of such magnitude and with reference to the late pending negociations between the British Government and the U.S. a Question of such vast magnitude to both.

A discretion having been reposed in me with respect to the Route to be taken on the occasion, I deem it most advisable to proceed from hence (which I intend to do in a Mail boat that leaves this on the 22d inst) to Barbadoes that being the first and most important of all the windward Colonies and as soon as my labours shall have been completed there I will take the Islands in proximity down, deferring my visit to Jamaica until I hear from you on the subject.

I shall not fail to use as much dispatch as I consistently can with the points of information necessary to acquire in each Island and conformably with your suggestions will transmit my observations and remarks on each in succession.

In obedience to the orders contained in your instructions I have taken the liberty this day to draw on the department in favor of R. D. Eldridge Esquire for

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the sum of $ 500 and also in favor of the same Gentleman for the sum of $ 833 advanced on account of this Consulate which I trust you will give directions to be paid.

With profound respect
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient most humble Servant
Signed Robert Monroe Harrison

To the Honorable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington.

Barbadoes 9th August 1827

Sir

I do myself the honour to inform you that I arrived here in the Mail boat on the 5th inst. having been detained at Antigua for a passage until the 28th ult. I visited Dominica and St Lucia on my way to this island but as the Mail boats are not allowed longer time than Six hours to remain at the different places they touch at on their route (and the small craft of the Islands very unsafe in the Hurricane months) I could obtain little more information than I already possessed. I however ascertained from the Planters (one of whom being a passenger on board from St Lucia and a very intelligent man) that their supplies cost them at least 30 p Cent more now than when the Ports were open to our vessels; yet the Merchants who alone are benefited by the trade being interdicted, avow that they get those articles which were formerly supplied by the U.S. direct, through the Neutral Islands equally cheap. Whilst the Ports were open the

people

people of British N. America and others interested in excluding our vessels from the trade to the Islands boldly asserted that they could supply the W. India Colonies with all they required / and petitioned to Government to that effect, / yet strange to say fewer of their vessels have arrived in the different Islands since the Interdict than before, this I have particularly remarked and many persons express their astonishment at the circumstance but without reflecting that it is owing entirely to the supplies coming altogether through the Neutral ports (which are overstocked) and so long as the British Government permits it, I cannot bring myself to think or beleive that the Interdict will be of any material injury to the U.S. It is true that at present we have not so many Ports to go to, and consequently must occasionally make a sacrifice when the markets are overstocked at some place, but if this be so? the remedy is in our own hands, let our planters from the State of Maryland to our most Southern boundaries cultivate articles that suit other markets (I say nothing of the Northern States as they do not afford such a variety in their productions) our Climate will produce almost every thing and less of these which the wants of the West Indies require; by that means our own prices may be obtained in their markets.

The duties, charges &c on an American vessel in the Danish, Swedish and Dutch Islands may be from $ 70 to $ 120. In the English from $ 400 to $ 1200 $ 1400 and often $ 1500, and that too on a cargo which perhaps originally cost in America $ 800.

Whenever occasion has called forth any remarks from me on the subject of Charges &c, I have been told

told that the consumer pays them, so he does in part, and in some instances when a scarcity exists, but it is a notorious fact that our Merchants get as much in those neutral ports at this moment, and more than if they came direct, consequently save all the difference of charges, independent of which their cargoes are not trusted out or left behind them, and in many instances lose the whole in consequence of Bankruptcy, or death, which too often happens in those sickly climates. You would be astonished at the amount of American property which is lost by our citizens in this way.

This letter being merely for the purpose of ~~advising~~ you of my movements, I shall therefore in obedience to your instructions, have the honor, in eight or ten days, to send you the result of my observations in Dominica, St Lucia & this island: intending at the close of my tour to embody and place the whole in a minute and more formal way before you, which it is impossible for me to do by a letter. I shall then have time to reply with more confidence to those parts of your instructions which are matters of opinion only, but require much observation and reflection on my part to prevent you from being led into an error in any way whatever. I have taken the liberty to give the bearer of this letter, James Niel Esquire a few introductory lines to you. He is of the great and respectable House of Messrs Cavan & Co well known in the U.S. and throughout Europe. The Senior partner of this establishment Mr James Cavan resides in London, and for many years has had the ears of Ministers, I have reason to suppose that Mr Niel's tour through the U.S. to Canada is in some way connected with the views of the British Government, or on some great and important Speculation depending on the existing state of affairs between the two countries. Being on terms of intimacy with the principal of the House here, I may possibly by some means or other become acquainted with Mr Niel's mission to the U.S. In the mean time, Sir, you may have an opportunity to draw something out of him yourself or

through

through others, and it is with that view I have presumed to introduce him to your notice, as also for the great hospitality and attention this House has invariably paid to all our Ships of War and Citizens coming to this Island.

I find that Mr Canning is no favorite with the Military (this Island being H quarters). The Colonists discontented throughout with the measures of the Mother Country, and often express themselves to me in a way I cannot avoid hearing, but which prudence dictates to me the propriety of not noticing.

With assurance of my real and best exertions to fulfil the duties of the mission with which you have been pleased to honor me

I have the honor to be

With the greatest respect

Sir

Your obedient & most

humble Servant.

Signed Robert Monroe Harrison

To the Honorable Henry Clay

Secretary of State

Washington.

Barbadoes 16th August 1827

Sir

In obedience to the instructions contained in your letter of the 14th May last, I now do myself the honor to report to you the result of my observations as at the following Islands, Vizt Antigua, Dominica St Lucia and Barbadoes commencing with the first and taking the rest in succession. Antigua.

Antigua with a Slave population of 31064 Souls. 1982 whites and 3905 free coloured people on an average crop, produces about 18000 Hhds of Sugar pr Annum but has sometimes made as much as 36500 and 18763 puncheons of Rum independent of Molasses. The supplies required for the wants of the Island from Foreign Ports will be found in Answer to the 1st Quest. say Corn, Cornmeal, Flour, Rye Bread, Pulse, Tobacco, Mules, Asses, Cattle, Red and White oak Staves, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, Turpentine, Spirits of ditto, Masts, yards, oars Handspikes, white and pitch pine lumber, Cypress and cedar Shingles, laying ditto (commonly called Boston chips) hoops & heading manufactures &c. The amount of each may be seen by a reference to my letter of the 28th December 1826 enclosing returns of imports of the productions of the U.S. into that Island for three years ending 1st December last.

To the 2nd Quest. British North America, white and p. pine lumber, ash oars Handspikes and Staves of the same wood (which are only fit for Sugar Hhds) and some few R Oak Staves, masts and Spars might also be had, but as yet they have brought none to Antigua. England furnishes a considerable quantity of Staves made up into Rum puncheons which are sent out full of oats, Beans, Dry Goods, Cutlery, Hardware &c. She also sends a good many Hoops to the Colonies, Beef, Pork, butter, cheese Herrings &c. One cargo of French Corn consisting of 8000 Bushels and another of Corn & Corn meal have been imported in British vessels from Liverpool the latter article cost the Planters after being landed including charges and Interest 166½ cents pr Bushel, whilst that from America was selling @ 124½.

Formerly Mules, Asses &c were imported from Columbia, but at present these States have not sufficient for themselves, Some Cargoes are occasionally imported into the B. Colonies from the Brazil. Hardwood from Demerara would make a substitute for Y. Pine as would Balaba for Cypress though difficult to work.

To

To the 3rd Quest The Island as it regards Provisions, raises in roots (yams Potatoes and Eddoes) with a small proportion of grain (Maize and Guinea-corn) on an average, six months support for the labouring class, but this quality is, and always has been precarious from various causes, either drought or over abundance of rain ruins this description of produce. The staple exports being more valuable, the prospects of abundant prices would diminish the cultivation of roots, or the reverse impediments to the introduction of low priced Breadstuffs, are causes that would increase it. The latter reason is now in operation, rather a larger proportion of the island than usual, being this season appropriated to the growth of provisions.- No article of lumber will ever be likely to be produced, Tobacco was in remote periods the principal production of the Colony, but it is now totally neglected.

To the 4th Quest The United States supply not only Antigua but all the West Indies cheaper and better (I believe) than any other Country with which they have as yet had intercourse; that is to say with the following articles vizt corn corn-meal flour Rye, Bread Rice Pulse Tobacco, Horses better in proportion to value, cattle R & W. oak Staves, P. Pine lumber, Cypress Shingles, Tar, Pitch Rosin, Turpentine, Spirits of ditto. and holds a fair competition with British America in the articles of White pine & spruce lumber laying and cedar Shingles. The U.S. could if permitted furnish every kind of Salt provisions cheaper than any other power. Say Beef @ $ 8 pr Bbl Pork $ 12 the first article is generally at Antigua from $ 16 to $ 17 the latter $ 20, 24 and sometimes $ 27 and so it is with every other thing of this kind.

The merchant pays not much more for these articles now in consequence of the Neutral Islands being overstocked with American produce than when the Trade was open. But the poor planter pays 40 pr cent more for every thing.

To the 5th Quest. It is thought not: with the exception of Tobacco and pitch pine: as all the other articles enumerated in the preceding article could be ob-

tained

tained, although under certain disadvantages, from Continental Europe and from British America. Rice from Africa, Portorico, Brazils, S. Maine.*

To the 6th Ques. Little or no intercourse in consequence, not a single Foreign vessel from the continent with cargoes nor has there a British vessel sailed from either of the Islands for one to any part of Europe.

* India & other places.

To the 7th Ques. Not an instance of a Foreign arrival direct. some very unfrequent shipments of Grain (maize from France, see answer to Question No. 2) oats and Beans (probably from Poland and Prussia) have found their way hither in British bottoms through the intervention of a British Port. A trifling quantity of Corn meal manufactured in Liverpool from French corn has also been sent to Antigua.

To the 8th Ques. Decidedly in favour of the U. States (Vide Answer to 2nd Question) as regards Corn, corn-meal, & every other article will most assuredly be in proportion - which will not only be increased by long voyages, (only one in a year) as it is well known that the Baltic and Categat are invariably frozen up in the Winter. Independent of which the articles of wheat and flour are not at all times to be had in the North of Europe, say Prussia in particular, which country is sometimes subject to famine and scarcity every fourth or fifth year; and therefore His Prussian Majesty has been obliged to build graniaries throughout the country from which the people are fed on such occasions.

To the 9th Ques. British most assuredly: this article however has been answered generally by the preceding article and the following.

To the 10th Ques. If the direct intercourse remains interdicted, the Islands will continue (if permitted) to draw their supplies almost entirely from the foreign Islands

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in the neighbourhood (St Thomas, St Eustatia, St Bartholomew, as also Guadeloupe & Martinique) consisting of the products of the U. States, with the exception of white pine and Spruce lumber, cedar and laying shingles (commonly called Boston chips) which will cheaply be supplied from British America. a few red oak staves might also be derived from the same source.* The disadvantages of the indirect trade are considerable, in the first place the domestic markets are supplied irregularly, thus creating considerable fluctuation of price — rarely in favor of the consumer — secondly every article so imported is saddled with the double charges of freight agency and frequently storage, and all this falls on the unfortunate Colonist without any equivalent to the nation. (the navigation used for the transportation of property from the foreign to the British possessions, consisting principally of Droghers which embrace an interval of time when unemployed domestically) for engaging in this Trade produces no increase of the national marine.

*Staves of the Matuba as a substitute from Demarara

To the 11th Ques. It is thought in the Island of Antigua, that remonstrance would be unavailing; invasions of the rights of West India property, by the Mother Country have of late, become so frequent and memorials praying for relief from measures, affecting even the existence of these settlements as Colonies to G. Britain, have been so entirely and shamefully disregarded, that it can scarcely be expected expostulations on regulations of trade, the directions of which has always been the undenied right of the parent State, would now be attended to; one exception however to the opinion contained in the preceding article may possibly be accomplished

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in favor of the Salt Islands, / the distresses of the inhabitants having already compelled them to petition /, which depend so entirely on the intercourse with the U.States.

To the 12th Ques. None except when foreign productions pass thro' an English Warehouse, then a 10th of the import duty is deducted.

To the 13th Ques. Must be answered by general conclusions deduced from all the previous applied articles to the British Colonies generally: as regards the Interdict I have not had sufficient time to give a positive opinion, though I trust to be fully able to make up my mind on that head at the close of my tour through the Colonies: the Inhabitants of the Island from which I now address you, more especially the merchants (who are interested in the continuance of the interdict) seem to think no relaxation is to be expected; they however suppose that the circuitous trade between the U.S. and British West India Colonies will be tolerated in which I as yet concur with them in opinion.

Having closed my remarks &c for the present on Antigua, I now do myself the honor to report to you such observations as I have been enabled to make in person, / and information acquired from others, but which may be relied on /, as regards Dominica.

This Island with a Slave population of 21722 Souls 1325 whites 2988 free people of color (in answer to question the first), require the following supplies for its wants; Viz. (A small quantity of Flour, Rice, Corn, Pease, Beans & oats) White pine lumber, R.O. Staves, Shingles of different descriptions Spars, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, Horses and Cattle a few mules, Cod fish, pickled ditto, Beef, Pork, Butter, Candles, Soap lard, &c

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Ironmongery Plantation utensils, crates of ware, Dry Goods of all sorts, Tea, Gin, Brandy & Wines.

Ans[r] to the 2nd Ques. Flour, Beef, Pork, and oats, are occasionally imported into the Island from Quebec, but nothing ~~from~~ Lat- ever from Continental Europe. Rice from the E. Indies (via England) Africa Tara, and other places in South America. Tobacco, pease, corn, pitch pine lumber, Cypress Shingles, Tar* Pitch* and Rosin* can only be had from the U States through the neutral Islands. White pine lumber, Cedar & pine Shingles, Spars of all Sizes, Codfish & pickled do. from the provinces of New Brunswick & Nova Scotia- R. & N. O Staves and Horses from Canada, but not in abundance or sufficient to serve in time of crop. Oxen from Portorico, Mules from the Brazils, coast of Barbary & Cape de verd Islands- Beef, pork, Butter, Soap, candles, & Lard from Ireland; Ironmongery, Plantation utensils, Crates of ware, Dry Goods, Tea, Gin, Brandy, Wines, etc from England.

* From the Baltic also say those three articles.

To the 3rd Ques. This Island raises sufficient Ground provisions to serve the Slaves and labouring class of peo- ple all the year round, unless when destroyed by Hurricanes or Inundations; which often oc- cur, and so dreadful is the latter in its effects as to sweep away people, Houses, Cattle & Stock of every kind, with their fields of pro- duce. Rocks of an enormous Size are some- times carried into the Sea, and Mountains rent asunder by this overwhelming and de- structive torrent! The Hurricanes are equal- ly terrible, creating ruin and devastation, e- very where within their range or Sweep! and they seldom pass a year without one or the other. In consequence of which the Island is occasionally dependent for every thing from abroad, and as the Inhabitants can no where be supplied so cheap as from the U.S. the

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Interdict to them is injurious. There are several kinds of Hardwood in this Island but from the circumstance of its growing in the mountains, it is difficult to be got at, and of course not much used.

To the 4th Ques. My answer to this question, in my remarks on Antigua, may be applied to this Island as well as all the others.

To the 5th Ques. Vide my observations on this head as regards Antigua, with the exception of Corn meal, which that Colony cannot do without, whilst this never uses it but merely requires a small quantity of Corn.

To the 6th Ques. Vide my observations on Antigua as regards this Question.

To the 7th Ques. Not an instance of a foreign arrival direct nor has there been a Ship to the Island from England with the productions of Continental Europe on board.

To the 8th Ques. Has already been given in my remarks on Antigua.

To the 9th Ques. Ditto Ditto Ditto. Ditto.

To the 10th Ques. Ditto Ditto Ditto. Ditto.

To the 11th Ques. Vide remarks on Antigua, which may be applied to this Island in every respect as regards the indifference of the Mother Country to the prayers and petitions of the Colonists for redress. The inhabitants of this island however differ greatly from those of Antigua being partly French and having all the fire of that nation, tempered by the cool and determined Spirit of the English, and in my opinion will not fail to remonstrate with their Government when occasion offers.

To the 12th Ques. None except when foreign productions pass through a British Warehouse (as before Stated); then a 10th of the import duties is

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deducted

To the 13th Ques. Has already been given, so far as could be done for the present, and I now do myself the honor to lay before you the result of such observations and remarks as I have had occasion to make on the Island of St Lucia: and therefore in answer to Question the 1st beg leave to state,- That this Colony with a Slave population of 15000 Souls 1300 whites 2000 free people of colour, 120 Sugar Estates and 50 Coffee and Cotton ditto, in the year 1826 imported for its wants & supplies from the U.S. in american Bottoms 12650 lbs of rice, 5000 Barrels of Flour, 2000 Bushels of Corn, 4470 Barrels of ditto 700 Barrels of Corn meal, 550 Barrels of pease & Beans, 200 Barrels of Ship Bread 400 Barrels of Tar, rosin & pitch, 10000 lbs of Tobacco 250 head of Cattle, 325 Sheep, 70 Horses, 29 mules, 18 asses, 97800 feet of White pine lumber, 10000 feet of G.O. Lumber, 58000 Spruce and Ceder Shingles 48600 Red and Wh. Oak Staves, 192000 wood Hoops _____ tho a great many articles are brought into this Island which do not appear on the Books of the Custom House, the officers of that department are always alarmed when any inquiries are made as regards the imports, so that it is difficult to get a true Statement.

To the 2nd Ques. Vide report on Antigua as regards Lumber, Masts Spars &c Rum puncheons made up and filled with oats Beans Dry Goods, Cutlery and Hardware Hoops Beef Pork and all kinds of provisions. Hardwood may with great difficulty be procured in the mountains as a Substitute.

stitute for pitch pine lumber; it is however very difficult to work, and the planter will never resort to the use of it, but from pure necessity, as his Slaves and cattle can always be employed in work to better purposes and of course more to his interest: they are moreover very loth to penetrate into the woods, on account of the poisonous serpents, of which I shall speak more fully hereafter. Mules and Asses come from the Maine, but none are imported now for reasons I have before explained; plenty however may be had in the Brazels, (and other places which I have mentioned in answer to the 2nd Quest. as regards Dominico); Walaba Shingles from Trinidad, Demarara, and the whole of that coast, which may answer as a substitute for Cypress Shingles, they are however not only difficult to work, but also to lay on houses.

Horses, they say, can be procured from Canada but this I think is doubtful unless they come through the U States. All the planters with whom I conversed expressed a great wish to see the ports open to our Flag, informing me at the same time "that they paid already 30 p^{o} Cent more for their supplies now to the Merchant, than before the Interdict!" In stating the possibility of this Island's receiving elsewhere those supplies which were heretofore furnished by the U.S. I have refrained from giving an opinion as regards the difficulty and extra expense, which I venture to say in the present distressed State of the Colonists none are able to support or will submit to. Indeed the oppression of the Mother Country to the conquered colonies is beyond endurance.

To the 3rd Ques. This Island raises Yams, potatoes, eddoes, Indian and Guinea corn with several roots (as a substitute for flour, Corn meal & Corn) nearly sufficient to serve the Slaves and other classes of labouring people a great part of the year in

good

good seasons and would do so entirely were it not for the wild Hogs which destroy the Negro grounds of provisions and even Sugar Estates. All attempts to get rid of them have been found unavailing on account of the Poisonous Serpents which Swarm to such a degree in this island as to become a terror to all who visit it (and for whose bite no remedy has yet been found), and prevents in a great measure the destruction of the Hogs by Dogs; for if you were to take out a dozen of those poor animals to hunt them, you may esteem yourself fortunate indeed to return with one half, the rest being killed by the bites of these horrid reptiles. The Hog is the only animal that suffers nothing by their bite, every other living creature dies almost immediately after having been wounded by them; and Strange to say this species of Serpent is only found in Martinique and Saint Lucia! The Staple productions of this Island are Sugar, Rum, Coffee Cocoa, Pimento Ginger and Logwood.

To the 4th Ques. (As regards Antigua) may with equal propriety be applied to this Island with this difference, that the Planters here, pay 30 p Cent more to the Merchant (as I before Stated), now, than they did before the Ports were closed, whilst at Antigua it is 40 pr Cent.

To the 5th Ques. Vide Antigua on the same head.

To the 6th Ques. No intercourse whatever with Continental Europe.

To the 7th Ques. Not an instance of a foreign arrival with any thing whatever.

To the 8th Ques. In Speaking of Antigua, may be applied to all the Islands

To the 9th Ques. British of Course, this article however has been answered in the preceding.

To the 10th Ques. Has been given already as regards the Supplies of the Colonies when Speaking of Antigua, to which I beg leave to refer you and have therefore only to add further that from the known jealousy of the British Government and people as regards Navigation

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in general (on which they say their very existence depends) it is not at all likely (should the Interdict continue), that they will allow Foreigners to have any great share in the carrying trade, notwithstanding their treaties of fair reciprocity &c. as it is a very easy matter (as experience has shown in those which they have with the U. S.) to interpret any article to suit their purpose, and should those aggrieved complain it will be just what they wish and a sufficient excuse to go back to the Old Navigation laws with some decency, by which they tell you they have grown great and powerful under. From the commencement of the French revolution to the present day we have clearly seen that Power with the nations of Europe has been exercised on all occasions to suit their own views without any regard to Justice; England has not been more nice than her continental neighbours on this head, though She is the greatest Brawler, and the first to reproach others!!!

To the 11th Ques. Has already been given at full length in my observations on Antigua, but as the Inhabitants of this Island are a very high minded set of people, they may in all likelihood (in the course of nine months or a year, when the effects of the Interdict are more felt), make a remonstrance to Government.

To the 12th Ques. As regards Antigua may be applied to this Colony and all the others.

To the 13th Ques. I have nothing to add to what has been said by me when speaking of Anticia to which I beg leave to refer you, with this difference that the Merchants and Planters in St Lucia (with whom I had any intercourse) expressed a very earnest wish to see the Interdict taken off.

At the close of my tour I shall be able to speak more fully on various subjects connected with this Island. In the mean time I have the honour to communicate

municate to you such observations and remarks as I have been enabled to make during my residence in this Colony (Barbados) The Headquarters of all the British forces in the windward Islands, the oldest of the Colonies, and without doubt the most respectable. Here the mother County has lavished immense, and almost unheard of Sums on Barracks for the troops (which look like palaces), Public warehouses, arsenals, and on every thing connected with war. The chiefs of every department having separate establishments surrounded with walls, beautiful gardens & Shrubbery not only to delight the mind but please the eye also; in fact those buildings may vie with the private Gentlemen's and many of the nobility's seats in England for comfort and elegance. A Lieutenant-General in the army is always Governor, and it requires no little interest to obtain the appointment, whose salary is $35000 pr ann. The society in the Island is very select and well informed many being connected with the best families in the Mother-Country and of course pretty well acquainted with the views and opinions of the leading men in and out of Parliament (so far as it is possible for those opinions to be known before they have been promulgated to the Public); in consequence of which my residence here has necessarily been protracted for the purpose of obtaining such information &c as would aid and assist me in effecting the object for which I have been commanded to make the present tour.

This Island has a Slave population of 75000 souls, 20000 whites and 15000 free people of Colour. The average crops are about 25000 Hhds of Sugar, this year they expect to make 40000 2000 Bales of Cotton, 3000 bags of Ginger, 125lb each, 1000 puncheons rum (generally consumed in the Island) 1000 casks molasses;

1st

1st Quest. And in answer to the first Question require the fol-
lowing supplies from Foreign Countries, Viz.t Flour,
Rice, Tobacco, Lease, a small quantity of Corn meal,
Pine lumber, R.O. Staves, Shingles of different kinds
Tar, pitch, Rosin, Spars of various descriptions, Horses
& Cattle, a few mules, Cod Fish, Pickled ditto, Beef, Pork,
Butter, Candles, Soap, Lard, Ironmongery, Plantation
utensils, Crates of ware, Gin, Brandy, wine, &c &c

2d the 2nd Ques. A considerable quantity of Flour, Beef, Pork, oats, &c
are imported here annually from Quebec (and more
could be had if the wants of the Island required it).
A cargo of 2600 Barrels of Dantzic flour (im-
ported in an English Ship is now in Port of a sweet
quality but requires three fourths of american flour to
be mixed with it (as the Contractor tells me) to de-
ceive or rather satisfy the Soldier, accustomed al-
ways to that which comes from the U. States. 250 Bls
have been purchased to make the trial, as yet I have
not learnt whether it has succeeded or not. 750 Bls
have also been purchased by different bakers (and
cost more by fifty cents than what American flour
could be had coming circuitously through the neu-
tral Islands); the balance say 1600 could not be
sold and has been sent to Jamaica. Rice
can be had from the East Indies, Africa, Para,
and other places in South America at pretty
low rates, which has been imported into the Island
occasionally; Tobacco, Lease, beans, Corn meal,
Pine lumber, Cypriets Shingles, Tar, Pitch and
Rosin, will come through the neutral Islands
from the U.S.; White pine lumber, Cedar &
pine Shingles, Spars of all sorts, Cod-fish and

pickled

pickled ditto can be supplied from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia R. & W oak Staves and Horses from Canada and the other provinces, but not in such quantities as are required in the time of Crop throughout the whole of the Islands." "Oxen from Portorico in abundance, many of the Islands are at this moment and have been for years supplied with them from that place." Mules are but little used in this Colony. Beef, Pork Butter, Soap, Lard, and linens are imported from Ireland in much larger quantities than can be consumed; Ironmongery Plantation utensils, crates of Ware, Dry Goods of all description, Tea, Gin, Brandy Wines, &c are brought from England in great abundance; Coffee and Cocoa from Dominico & St Lucia & Trinidad.

To the 3rd Ques. This Island depends less on Foreign supplies than any other Colony, as it raises within itself large quantities of Indian Corn (in 1813 it exported 39000 bushels @ $1 p Bushel to the neighbouring Islands) as well as that called Guinea Corn, on which the Planters greatly depend, and never fail to keep their houses well filled all the year round. They all raise Potatoes Eddoes Plantains & Pease enough generally to supply the interior of the Island, (as also Bridgetown) except in dry seasons, when not only the ground provisions fail, but the crops of Sugar &c &c are destroyed also. In fact the soil of those old Islands are so completely worked out, that they require heavy rains once a week at least and without which nothing can be expected from them. If there were an unrestrained intercourse, many

articles

articles would no doubt be cheaper than they are now as the produce of this Island is generally higher than in the neighbouring British or Foreign Colonies; it would therefore be left on hand to be shipped of to England or Ireland, or some of the British possessions, and nothing of course would be taken by the Americans coming to the Island with productions of the U. States, but cash; consequently an uninterrupted intercourse would be of little benefit to this Colony. It is somewhat strange that the inhabitants of this Island, as well as the others, have less regard for Mr. Jefferson than any of our Presidents (not excepting Mr. Madison, who manfully declared war against their nation"), yet they say he nevertheless, though not intentionally, rendered them a great service by laying on the Embargo, which taught them to find resources within themselves; that is to say by cultivating ground provisions, which they never did before, and were entirely dependent on the U. States, this they tell you is not now the case and will never be so again."

To the 4th Ques. Vide Antigua on this head. Articles which were heretofore received from the U. States have not increased in price as they came into the hands of the Merchant, nor has the latter laid on any considerable advance on those which they now furnish the Planter in addition to that which they Charged before the Interdict; which in a great measure arises from the circumstance of all kind of American produce being so abundant and cheap in the Neutral Islands, and also on account of this Colony and others being pretty well supplied (particularly with Staves)

To the 5th Ques. Vide what I have said on this question when speaking of the three first Islands.

To the 6th Ques. Little or no intercourse; not a single foreign vessel from the continent with a cargo, nor has there a British vessel sailed from this Island

To the 7th Ques. Not an instance of a foreign arrival direct, a cargo of Dantzic flour has been here vide answer to 2d Ques.

To the 8th Ques. Vide Obns to 2nd Question as regards this Island and may be applied to the rest, as also Answer to the present Question in my observations on Antigua, &c

To the 9th Ques. Given before as regards other Islands and may with equal propriety be applied to this Colony.

To the 10th Ques. Vide that to Question, the second in addition to the answer to the present in my observations on Antigua which can also be applied to this* Island and all the others.

* This Island has a greater number of vessels than any of the rest Jamaica excepted having 22 Sails from 20 to 125 tons, making 1427 tons in all 15 Small craft fr 6 to 12 tons ea.

To the 11th Ques. As the Inhabitants of this Island have not as yet felt any inconvenience from the Interdict (like those of Antigua* and the Islands of Montserratt Nevis, St Christophes and Anguilla) and in no expectations of experiencing any whatever, they in general approbate the measures of their Government, in the present instance as regards the U. States but concur in the fullest manner with the people of Antigua on the subject of oppression invasion of rights, &c by the mother-country; and go far beyond them in expressions of manly sentiments of feeling and disapprobation of the recent measures of Parliament as regards the Slave population. The planters in general and some few of the Merchants say, they would like to see the intercourse restored; this may be more of compliment to me than otherwise and generally

* This Island having experienced three Sets of Wind this season (and I presume others have also suffered) will feel the effects of the Interdict most sensibly.

occurs

occurs at parties to which I am invited, where the natives of those climes indulge in a manner altogether unknown in countries more northerly, and are remarkable for hospitality.

Ans.r to the 12th Ques: Has been given in my observations on Antigua
To the 13th Ques: Has also been given, but I intend hereafter to do myself the honour to address you more fully on this head and others. As regards the present communication you will at once perceive that it is greatly deficient in style, &c. but you may however rely on all the Statements as far as circumstances, and the nature of the situation in which I am placed will admit of. The books of the Custom-houses in general being kept in a very irregular manner in the several Islands, and many more articles having been admitted into the Ports, than it would be for the interest or safety of the officers to allow to appear on the face of them, all information as regards imports have been of course evaded as much as possible, and in some cases only to be had by bribing the Understrappers through a second person as it would have been indiscreet to appear myself. In consequence of which I have not up to this moment received a Statement of the imports into Dominica from Foreign Countries though it has been faithfully promised to me: should it not come to hand in time to accompany this dispatch it will follow after. Being extremely anxious to know if the present communication embraces all the points of information which were contemplated to be derived (by nominating me to this mission), your opinion on this subject as early as convenient will greatly oblige me, in order that I

may

may make such additions or alterations as in your judgement shall be deemed advisable and proper. Known as I am throughout the Islands, it is natural to suppose that the curiosity of some persons will be excited by seeing me travelling at this season of the year, but whatever may be their ideas, no impertinent remarks or enquiries have been made. I therefore flatter myself to be able to complete my observations throughout the Islands in the same way they have been commenced not perhaps with the talent that others would have performed them, but with privacy and zeal to be useful to my country: (well knowing that in your eyes and that of the Great and Good personage who is now at the head of our Government) that these two qualities were the best recommendations to its favor. I shall proceed from hence to Demarara & Berbice and then return here in order to get a passage to Trinidad, as there is no conveyance from Demarara to the latter.

In the mean time, I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient & most humble servant

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To the Honorable Henry Clay

Secretary of State

Washington

P.S. You will perceive that this dispatch was commenced on the 16th August and closed on the 13th September 1827 which grew out of the circumstance of my writing only when I had matter to employ myself. I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Brents letter (which was written by the direction of the president) of the 16th June received the 29th Ultimo. I feel truly grateful to the President for having sanctioned my appointment

pointment of Mr. Eldridge at Antigua to superintend the interests of our fellow citizens who may be constrained to put into that Island. I am also most thankful for the condescension and interest he has evinced to have me recognized at St. Bartholomew by the King of Sweden, and I trust my future conduct will fully justify the favors he has been pleased to confer upon me. I am fearful you will find difficulty in reading this communication, as I never wrote so bad in all my life, add to which I unfortunately commenced with very bad paper. I am also getting an old man, with bad eyes & an unsteady hand.

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

Barbadoes 13th September 1827.

P.S. The Government of Martinique & Guadeloupe having perceived that the English Islands were receiving their supplies from St. Barts, St. Eustatia and St. Thomas (although far to leeward) in preference to taking them at either of the two first named places although immediately at their doors, have thought proper to allow cargoes to be sold from board to board, by paying one half duties. This will not only be very advantageous to the English purchaser but also to our Countrymen, as the expences of landing, Storing &c. at both those places are great, independent of the risk in Hurricane months, as the Sea in the open Roadsteads of those two Islands is at times so heavy, that vessels are prevented from landing for days. The above arrangement with several

similar

similar facilities, which have been afforded to the commerce of the U.S. and that of England by the neutral Islands, serves in a great measure to perpetuate the Interdict as the Colonies will hardly remonstrate to the Mother Country unless such a measure is justified by necessity. The merchants in my opinion appear to be benefitting by the Interdict, more especially those who have vessels, as they find sufficient employment, and should things continue in their present State, those of this Island will increase their number.* In the Legislatures of most of the Islands the landed interest will always have a majority, consequently the interest of the merchant and planter often clash, and it is very natural, the former wishing to get his supplies as cheap as possible, whilst the latter endeavours to keep up the prices, in consequence of which there is not much cordiality between them, and however much the Planters may hereafter feel disposed to remonstrate to Government on the subject of the Interdict they will be opposed by the Merchants, although the former may have at present a majority in the Colonial Assembly but this influence is greatly balanced in consequence of the Planters for the most part being much involved with the Mercantile Houses in the Mother-Country, whilst their representatives hold their mortgage, &c, in terrorem over their heads.

* They have several vessels trading to British America as also Ireland.

Demarara 10th October 1827

Sir

I do myself the honor to inform you that I arrived here on the 6th August and embrace the earliest opportunity that has occurred to advise you accordingly. I also beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th August which I found here in answer to my respects of the 14th, 18th & 19th of July by which I am informed that, "The President wishes me to extend my observations to Jamaica, as well as the other British Islands, that it may be convenient for me to visit." The wish of the President being at all times tantamount to a command with me, I pray you to assure him that as soon as my observations on this colony are closed and reported to you, I shall proceed with great pleasure to that Island and every other with which we had any intercourse before the Interdict. This is a great and valuable Colony to the British Government from which many of the Islands (if it had a sufficient number of negroes) might be supplied with certain articles as substitutes for those that they were and are now dependent on the U. States for. My report therefore on the nature of the climate and productions of the Colony will not only be lengthy but occupy considerable time. With this you will receive a Duplicate of my Dispatch of the 13th Ultimo, flattering myself that you will have received the Original long ere this.

With the highest respect I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient & most humble Servant

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To the Honorable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington

De

Demarara 17th Novr 1827

Sir

I had the honor on the 10th inst to inform you of my arrival at this place, and at the same time sent you a duplicate of my dispatch of the 13th Ultimo. I now do myself the honor to lay before you a report of my observations on British Guiana, out of which the colonies of Demarara, Essequebo and Berbice have been formed. British Guiana is bounded on the East by the river Courantyne, this line having been established in 1692 and finally conceded to Berbice on the British taking possession of Surinam in 1799. The Boundary was formerly fixed by Vanpere, proprietor of Berbice, and Lord Sommelsdyk, Governor of Surinam, on a piece of water between Berbice and Courantyne, called the Devils neck, its western boundary is in the disputed Space between the Pomeroon and the Barymas, and its Southern limits in immense Forests, and Swampy Savannahs terminated by Spanish Guiana and the Cordilleras. Its northern Shores are washed by the Atlantic ocean. Berbice extends from the Courantyne to Abary Creek, a space of about 60 miles; this boundary was established as far back as 1672. Demarara, from Abary Creek to the river Essequebo, extends a distance of about 90 miles; and from that river to the Pomeroon, about 40 miles further — the latter being considered the Western boundary of British Guiana. The whole United Colony thus extending about 130 miles from East to West, and 250 to 300 miles in length from North to South, is only cultivated on its coasts and the banks of its creeks & rivers. The River Essequebo was called by the Indians Aranacumana, and appears to have derived its present name from Don Juan Essequebit

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an officer under Diego Columbus. It is upwards of 20 miles broad at the Mouth, which is interspersed by many beautiful Islands, particularly Leguan, Vaken ham and Tiger Islands, the first of these contains 22 Sugar Estates, the second 18 and the last 3. The river Demarara is about 3 miles broad at Fort William Frederick, and the Berbice river is nearly the same breadth, and navigable much higher than the cultivation extends. The product of these Colonies consists in Sugar, Cotton and Coffee, which are the staple commodities; Cocoa is but little cultivated and Indigo not at all. The woods of the interior abound in the most valuable, as well as the most varied, beautiful, and durable timber: the soil of the united colony is well calculated for raising ground provisions, such as the bread fruit, yams, cassava, potatoes, &c and above all, the favourite food of Negroes, the plantain-tree*, an annual which produces in such abundance, that on many estates, numbers of cattle and hogs are fed from the surplus crops — an advantage not possessed by any of the old Colonies, the whole of the fruits produced by these latter being also abundant in Guiana.

* This was formerly the case but it has recently been attacked by a worm which makes such havoc amongst the trees, that no one at present can calculate on the article altogether as a certain provision for their slaves as formerly.

The United Colony contains 325 Sugar, coffee and cotton Estates in cultivation with a population of about 7000 whites and people of colour and 77000 Negroes, and in answer to Question the first require the following supplies for its wants from foreign Countries. Viz^{t} Flour, Tobacco, White and pitch pine lumber, R.O. Staves Shingles, Tar, Pitch, Rosin, Spars, Horses, mules, Codfish Pickled ditto, Beef, Pork, Butter, Candles, Soap, Lard, Ironmongery, oats, Plantation utensils, crates of ware, Gin, Brandy, Wine, &c

To the 2nd Ques. A considerable quantity of flour, pork, beef, oats &c are imported here annually from Quebec; white pine lumber

ber, cedar and white pine shingles Spars of all sorts, cod fish and pickled ditto can be supplied from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; Red & W. O Staves and Horses from Canada; Mules from various places in Columbia; Beef, Pork, Butter, Soap, Lard, linens, from Ireland; Ironmongery, Plantation-utensils, crates of ware, Dry Goods of all sorts Tea, Gin, wines &c from England.

Flour, Beef, Pork, & R.O. Staves are introduced into Canada from the U.S. and brought to the W. Indies in great quantity. Indeed the Beef and Pork, principally made use of in the Leeward Islands are of this description. Price of the former about $16 - Salted $20. 22. 27. retail.

To the 3rd Queries. This colony depends less on foreign countries for its supplies than any of the Islands, as it raises within itself immense quantities of Plantains,* (the favorite food of the Negroes) with which it supplies many of the Islands, as also Eddoes, Potatoes, Yeans, Pease, and other roots. The woods of the interior abound in the most valuable, beautiful and durable timbers amongst which may be had such as will answer as substitutes for all the different kinds of lumber which formerly came to the colony from the U States. Salt Fish is the only article of food required from foreign countries for the wants of the Slaves, and that might be had, as the sea coast, rivers creeks, ponds, canals and trenches abound in the finest fish imaginable. The Slaves on the Cotton Estates where the labour is not so hard and having a good deal of idle time, are allowed to fish, and support themselves with what they catch and their ground provisions which grow almost spontaneously. they have plenty of cattle in this colony, and the Beef good likewise their mutton & Hogs. the woods abound with game and various wild animals, the flesh of many of them being excellent, they are sought after with avidity. Since writing the above the following observations have been politely communicated to me from one of the most respectable and intelligent Men of the colony* (holding a high and responsible situation under its Government) which I think may be relied on.

* Within the last five or six years this article has been attacked by a species of worm which destroys immense quantities and became so alarming that a great reward has been offered by the agricultural Society in the Colony to any one for the discovery of some method or means to get rid of them.

* who has an Estate with 500 negroes & makes 1000 Hhds of sugar, independent of Coffee and Cotton, every year.

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The colony of Demarara & Essequebo has great natural resources, and produces articles which serve as substitutes for american supplies when the market is either entirely bare or a scarcity prevails of the latter, for example during the late war with America and before supplies came in with any degree of regularity from the British provinces. Boards of crabwood were used for buildings, say for boarding in & making partitions and floors. The frames of Buildings are generally of hardwood Green heart or Walaba and the roofs are covered with shingles of the last mentioned wood, which are more durable even than cedar or cypress and as cheap as either. The Forests abound with white cedar and other soft woods which answer well for Sugar Hhds and coffee casks or rum puncheons.

Plantains are the great food of the negroes and many of the white people, particularly the planters and Tradesmen prefer them to bread, So that the consumption of flour is very limited - but the american flour is always preferred to any other - But with all these natural resources the inhabitants of Demarara regret the nonintercourse with America - the Sugar planters particularly as they are deprived of the Porter-trade, and are obliged to make large shipments of Rum & Molasses to Britain, which they formerly got rid of to the Americans.

The supply of lumber and Staves which now come from the British possessions in America do not arrive in regular succession so as to keep the prices at the medium which was observable during our intercourse with the U States, and in as far as the Quebec trade is concerned, the arrivals and departures are confined to a few months only of the whole year

Altho'

Although the Plantains may continue for many years yet to be the principal food of the Negroes - yet it is by no means improbable that the tree will ere long become scarce - for a disease has attached many of the walks in various parts of the country to such a degree that in a few days not a tree has been left alive on a plantation; the disease is still spreading and many estates are found incapable of raising provisions for their slaves and are reduced to the necessity of purchasing Plantains from others not yet afflicted with it. It is to be observed that even on the best lands of the colony, the plantain tree sometimes fails to yeild in a long dry season and that it frequently occurs that plantains are not to be had for money by the Estates which fail to produce them - there is then no alternative for the Proprietor but to purchase rice flour or cornmeal to feed his Slaves, and the quantity in the market being generally very limited - it is then necessary to send to Barbados and the other Islands for supplies - these supplies must be paid for in money, and thus the colony loses by a want of the Barter trade. I by no means think it impossible that in a few years many Estates in this Colony will resort to finding their Slaves with rice and corn-meal provided these articles can be brought direct from America and the Barter-trade is open; - for with a spreading disease in the plantain walks and the frequent occurrence of dry seasons (to which the colony is becoming every year more and more subject, owing to the Woods being cleared away in the vicinity where the plantations principally are situated), it is even now almost imprudent for any Estate to be without a supply of these articles on hand as a Stand by. The expense of labour is so high in this colony that the crabwood boards above mentioned cannot be sold under £6 and £70 per 1000 feet and during the war with America they

rose

rose to 80 & 90 $ pm. Colony Staves and heading generally fetch 30 @ 34 $ pm but the plantations having white wood on them, or a back of them in the interior - can cut them to stand in only about $ 15 pm - there are few however which possess this local advantage and the greater portion have to send Boats probably a distance of 30 or 40 miles up the river to the Spot where they are cut, and then American Staves would be cheaper at even 30 or 40 $ pm than incurring the expense of Boat-hire. This may require some explanation as the colony being very extensive you will say in many cases even for American Staves the Boats of the Estate will have to go a great distance for them, but it must be borne in mind that we have only one Port where all the produce of the Estates must be carried for Shipment, and consequently when a load of produce is carried there, the Boat may as well return to the Estate with supplies as to go back empty. whereas to go for Staves & heading up the rivers where they are generally cut, would take the Boats out of their regular course. For purchasing Staves and heading from the Wood-cutters in the Colony, the Planters are again deprived of the benefits of the barter trade.

If the trade with the united States is settled definitively to be done away, it appears to me that the West Indies generally will yet suffer much more than they have hitherto experienced, for it is well known that a very great portion of these Colonies are mortgaged to Merchants in England & Scotland who have Ships trading to them - will they not try to secure the freights to themselves? Certainly, they will make their vessels* call at Halifax, St. Johns and

* These vessels used formerly to come and lay three or four months in the Colonies waiting for Cargoes, they now go to British America & take in every thing that the wants of the colonies require, say Beef Pork lumber &c with which they come to the Islands about the time the Crops are in & their cargoes are ready. So that much time is saved and the vessels make a double freight. These vessels carry immense cargoes of lumber of which few of the Colonies have experienced any want since the Interdict. so far as my observations have as yet extended.

B. M. H.

and Quebec &c and bring out Supplies at such rates as they chose to make the poor Mortgaged planters pay. They will not take his rum & Melasses in payment at once but will make him ship & credit him the Nett proceeds — and thus the little barter trade which is now carrying on with the ports above mentioned will in a great measure disappear — it is not even improbable that the Estates mortgaged to them will be paid for by rum sent thro England &c which will of course enhance the price of the Supplies sent out to the Colonies — In Speaking of the advantages of a Barter trade I look back to the period before the late War, when the W. Indies were abundantly supplied from the U States — During the late Intercourse although we enjoyed it in a small degree, yet it was not to such an extent as to afford us any effectual relief — If the U States are heartily desirous of renewing a great trade with the W. Indies it appears to me (that if they can compromise matters with our Government) the effectual way to ensure it is to take of the duty on Rum and put things on the footing as they stood before the late war — then the Supplies would be prodigious — far beyond what they were at any former period, (as the growth of provisions in the Colonies are now greatly diminished) if the Colonies enjoyed the double benefit of cheap Supplies — and a Barter trade.

Demarara & Essequebo may be said to be independent of even the U States and British America for every thing except Salt-fish — if the Colonists are actually driven to the extremity of providing for themselves — for Rice and Indian Corn may be cultivated to any extent; lumber, Staves & Hoops can be got in the Colony and there are woods in the interior which would Suit for rum puncheons and

melasses

*P This is a most worthy man but as a Planter he speaks feelingly especially on the article of rum &c and it is the language of all the Planters and perhaps the expectations of their Government also. The President individually is blamed by them as the cause of the Non-Intercourse and I have had some trouble to convince them to the contrary which I was enabled to do in consequence of having the Acts of Congress by me and it gave me great pleasure in doing so.

Molasses - casks - altho' the difficulty of getting them would make the price high; with these articles the Colony might even (as it did during the war) assist the Islands But the great objection to employing the Slaves in that way - is that the population is so small, labour so high, and the cultivation of the Staple produce being so much more profitable - that the Inhabitants would rather buy than engage in these pursuits - If driven to it however the Colony can exist within itself - innumerable cattle may be bred in the Savannahs and with the assistance of Salt, the Slaves could be fed on Beef and Pork, if by accident the Fish trade should cease. This Colony being intersected with deep and navigable creeks throughout the whole extent of the country is well adapted for navigation, no carriages whatever are used for the transportation of articles (with the exception of drays in the Town) every cane, cotton or Coffee piece on an estate, having canals throughout them to carry the produce to the Mills and Works for grinding, and from thence to the Ships in the rivers. One Horse alone will drag five or six large flats of ten or twelve tons each along their canals and it is interesting to see them. The tide rises and falls about 8 feet and as far as the population extends on the borders of the Sea-coast and rivers. Dykes or embankments are thrown up (as in Holland) to prevent the country from being inundated which has sometimes happened, notwithstanding all these precautions; lately however the land has been sensibly gaining on the ocean, by which much labour has been saved.

* This however has been much reduced in the cultivation of sugar by introduction of the Steam Engine on all the Estates each of which cost from £5000 to £2500 Sterl. this circumstance however has broken up all the small Estates out of which others have been formed on a larger scale that make from 800 to 1000 Hhds of sugar from 150 to 900 lea. Memorials from several of the old inhabitants have been sent to Govt. to allow them to remove their Slaves here, should their prayer be granted this Colony will soon be able to supply themselves but remains of the Islands also with articles which they formerly got from the U States

And to the 4th Ques. The U States supply this Colony and all the West Indies cheaper and better than any other Country with which they have yet had intercourse: that is to say with Corn meal, Flour, Rice, Bread, To-

bacco,

bacco Horses R. & W. O Staves, S. P. lumber, Cypress Shingles, Tar, Pitch, Rosin, Turpentine, Spirits of ditto. and holds a fair competition with British America in the article of White & Spruce pine lumber, Laying & Cedar Shingles. The U.S. could if permitted furnish every kind of Salt provisions cheaper than any other.

To the 5th Ques. It is thought not with the exception of Tobacco, Pitch, pine and other articles enumerated in the preceding answers, could be obtained altho'-under certain disadvantages from Continental Europe, British N. America, Portorico, Brazils & Colombia - and Rice from Africa.

To the 6th Ques. No intercourse or trade whatever has taken place.

To the 7th Ques. There being neither trade nor intercourse between this Colony and Continental Europe, navigation of course is not necessary.

To the 8th Ques. Vide Answr. to the 8th Ques. in my observations on Antigua

To the 9th Ques. Vide Answr. to this Ques. also when speaking of Antigua.

To the 10th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 11th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 12th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 13th Ques. The resources of this Colony having been pretty fully stated by me to you in Answr. to the 3rd Ques. I have little more to add on that Subject, further than to say that as I every day become better acquainted, am the more convinced in opinion that the colony if driven by necessity, can not only support itself but assist many of the West India Islands very considerably.

Such a state of things would not however be viewed with pleasure by the Planters, whose interest would thereby be seriously injured. It is very different with the Merchants for to them the Interdict is most unquestionably beneficial, for reasons which I have explained in answer to the third question, as also to this, when addressing you from and speaking of Barbados. Petitions innumerable have been sent to Parliament from British America as well as

Some

some of the West India Colonies praying that the Interdict may continue, and some individuals have gone so far as to offer to supply the Colonies with every thing they stand in need of (though many of the articles are the produce of the U States and can only be had from them); I therefore think the Interdict will continue unless very considerable concessions are made on our part — which perhaps may not be consistent with our interest or dignity to submit to. The circuitous trade will be tolerated for the present on account of the Salt Islands; though I know memorials have gone to the Mother Country to have it done away. On my arrival in this Colony I was immediately recognized by Major General Sir Benjamin D'Urban the late worthy Governor of Antigua, and every attention imaginable paid to me: through him I have not only had access to all the public offices but he has himself furnished me with confidential reports, and this too without once asking or expressing a wish to know the object of my mission to the Colony — You may therefore rely with confidence on the correctness of this report. As soon as the Mail boat comes in, which is momently expected, I shall leave this for Barbados in order to get a passage to Tobago and Trinidad.

In the mean time
I have the honour to be,
With great respect,
Sir,
Your obedient & most humble Servant.
(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To The Honourable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington.

P.S.A Is a return of the export and imports, Tonnage and Navigation for the Colony of Demarara & Essequebo in the year 1826, as also the crops for the years 1824 and 1825 that for 1826 Strange to say is not yet made up in the Receiver Generals office.
P.S. This dispatch was closed at Demarara 17th November 1827.

Demarara 19th November 1827.

Sir

No opportunity having as yet offered to convey my dispatch to you of the 17th inst. I have in the mean time been able to procure several interesting papers, which I do myself the honour to send you herewith, Viz.t B, a letter from Charles Benjamin Esquire. C, Names and descriptions of the different timber growing in the forests of Guiana from the same Gentleman. D, a report from the Woodcutters to the Governor of the Colony. E, Comparative Statement of prices and durability of American lumber and Guiana Hardwoods. F, A private letter from P. Benjamin Esquire to the Governor relative to the woods as also some information concerning the Indians (commonly called Jucks here). It was my intention to have sent you Polished Specimens of all the woods of the Colony but as my time will not allow of my doing so I have requested my friend Charles Benjamin Esquire of Connecticut (now residing here and a very respectable Merchant) to send them to you via Antigua; they will be polished and put up in a Small Box about 10 inches in length and 3½ in breadth, having the appearance of a Small Cabinet/ and if I

am

um to judge from one I have seen in the possession of the Governor) very ornamental indeed. Mr P. Benjamin the writer of the private letter to the Governor was a native Citizen of the U States (but from Connecticut) he lived here many years and was a member of the Court of Policy, and during the whole time possessed the confidence of the Government; any information therefore from such a Man when writing confidentially may be relied on though I am Sorry he was an american.— yet I have in my travels through life seen many like him. My present tour has afforded me many opportunities of knowing the opinions of persons interested or trading to the West Indies, especially the English and Scotch, whose letters to their correspondents have been Shewn to me repeatedly: and I can say with truth that they all contained sentiments or expressions more or less unfavrable to the Government. It is such men as the authors of these letters that get up petitions to Government on the Subject of Colonial Intercourse, as also those for opposing any further duty on British manufactures. Vide the one from New York, last Session of Congress where Robert Lennox, a British born Subject was President and Seven eighths of all the Signatures were persons of the same nation; These men are generally pretty rich and leading characters in all our Towns and amongst Mecha-nicks &c have much influence consequently procure Signatures with great facility; this being the case all Petitions emanating from such a Source and treating of Subjects wherein a few only are interested (who are not only enemies to our laws and constitutions, but to our Country also) should be appreciated accordingly.— On this Subject I could say much but at present

have

have only time to assure you of the profound respect
with which I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your obedient & most humble Servant
(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To
The Honourable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington!

Barbados 24th December 1827

Sir

I do myself the honour to inform you that in consequence of a severe attack of fever as well as dysentery which detained me a month in Demarara and a long passage over, I did not arrive here until the 23rd instant.

I find this colony and all the others in its neighbourhood greatly in want of Staves and Jamaica so much so, that they are compelled to send up as high as St Thomas for supplies of that article, which has been sold here from $ 78 to $ 80 p.m. Eight hundred thousand more are still required for this Colony, where they are to come from I know not, as they are not to be had from the Neutral Islands. Martinique where large quantities have been purchased and brought here, has only now about 15,000 in the market and even if they were, persons bringing them into the Colony would run the risk of losing them, as a British Ship of war is now stationed in this port which seizes all vessels coming from there or from any of the Neutral Islands, with that article or any other which has been taken out of an american vessel before being landed in some port. Now as the Government of Martinique as

well

well as several of the Neutral Islands, allow Cargoes to be Sold in their ports from board to board, by paying half duties all property so circumstanced will be detained. The Custom house and the commander of this vessel of war are at issue as regards those Shameful and unjustificable Seizures, and where it will end I know not; as the gentlemen of the navy are perfectly independent of, and care nothing about the Colonial Authorities whatever. This commander has not as yet thought proper to give his reasons publicly, or to name the act of parliament or law, on which he grounds his right of Seizure; my opinion, however, is, that he is under an impression that the property not being landed is a continuity of the Voyage, and of course its character remains unchanged,— yet there is nothing in the recent order in Council to make property so circumstanced liable to seizure.— During my sickness in Demarara I was frequently visited by the Collector (with whom I had formerly been acquainted) a gentleman of a highly cultivated mind, and from the circumstance of having held the Situation of principal officer of H. M. Customs in several of the Islands and his intimate acquaintance with the nature of the whole of their wants as well as resources, I derived much valuable information from him; To use his expressions, "it is all a humbug on the part of G. Britain, "to close the ports to the American Vessels, as "it is impossible for the Colonies to do without "supplies from the U States; necessety is no "law, and when that is the case a man must "submit to circumstances, and so must the Co- "lonies. The planters of Demarara, the most

independent

"independent of the Colonist will sooner give the American
"50 pCt. more for their Supplies than to manufacture or
"cultivate the same within themselves because the la-
"bour of their negroes may be employed to more use-
"ful purposes in the cultivation of Sugar, &c. – they
"have no wood in the Colony fit to make Rum punt-
"cheons and the grocers and others in England com-
"plain much of that the Sugar Hhds. are made
"of, as it breaks and bursts when dry, and great
"quantities of Sugar are lost the casks* being too
"tender to roll."

* Their weight is also objected to on account of the Tare.

When speaking myself of the possibility of the United Colony of Demarara & Esequebo supporting itself and assisting the other Colonies (if driven to necessity) I did not mean to say that it could be done effectually with such a scanty population as at present, but in the event of the British Government allowing the Slaves from the small worn out Islands (who, as well as their owners, are in a State of Starvation) to be removed, the Colony will then be independent of England as well as America, for every article of provision but Salt fish Such a measure would not in my opinion conflict with the present views of Parliament as regards this unfortunate race, but on the contrary, be an act of policy* as well as humanity, many proprietors have petitioned to that effect & it is supposed their prayer will be granted, as ministers are now beginning to be sensible that they have not heretofore acted with justice or policy towards the Colonies. Just before my departure from Demarara the following remarks were handed to me by a respectable gentleman, who has resided in that colony 20 years, Vizt "The kind of supplies which are requisite for the wants of the Colony are – lumber, Staves, heading, Salted and pickled fish, Beef, pork, flour, rice, Tobacco, butter, Soap, Candles, &c. &c. Iron coolers, linen & Cotton manufactured,

* At this time, as the British Government is anxious to make the Colonies less dependent on the United States for supplies.

nufactured, Brandy, Gin, Wine, horses, Sheep, horned Cattle, poultry, Coals, &c. all the articles above mentioned can be procured either from Europe or British America. The colonies are capable of supplying themselves with timber, Staves, rice, tobacco, horses, Sheep, horned Cattle, poultry &c. were proper exertions made by the inhabitants for that purpose, of which there is little probability, at least for many years to come; lumber, Staves, rice, flour, horses, Sheep, horned Cattle &c. and probably Coals and bricks can be imported of better quality, and cheaper from the U States, than from any other Country and it is possible that Beef, Pork, candles, fish, though not of such good quality might be imported at such low prices, as to undersell, if not entirely destroy the trade of other countries in that article, if there was an unrestricted intercourse. As there has been no direct trade between the Colonies and Continental Europe, except through Holland and that of no material import being chiefly for estates mortgaged to Dutch Houses there can as yet be but little information given, relative to the effect which the act of Parliament of July 1825 has had or may have upon that trade. The colonies have large resource within themselves for the support of their population, "the general mildness of their seasons enables the inhabitants to cultivate vast quantities of the plantain besides the bitter and sweet cassava, tanias or eddoes the various kinds of yam and Indian corn, which grows luxurient with but little cultivation, in addition both upland and lowland rice, and the Breadfruit and nut, thrive well when they are attended to. The immense Savannahs Stretching aback from the Sea Shore, support great quantities of cattle, Sheep, and Goats, Hogs are also extremely prolific and thrive well, likewise poultry: thus the immediate necessities of life are or can readily be produced within themselves.— Staves, hoops and heading for their Sugar & molasses casks

Such

(such as they are) can also be obtained up the rivers and creeks
& also materials excepting Iron hoops for Rum puncheons; cotton & coffee bagging has with success been
made from the plantation hemp, but as those articles can be obtained cheap from G. Britain, they
have not been manufactured in the Colonies to any
extent; the Banks of the rivers & Creeks further pro-
duce various kinds of the most durable woods for
framing Shipbuilding and mill timbers of orna-
mental and Cabinet Work, and of the softer and
lighter kinds for house carpenters, besides Shingles
of a superior quality; being thus able to provide
for their own consumption generally, their trade
for the present principally centers in G. Britain;
from what has been said, it may be understood
that if the trade be unrestrained, the U States can
successfully compete with any part of the World
in the Sale of certain articles, and might possi-
bly find it to her advantage to take from the Co-
lonies some portion of their produce, as Rum, Sugar,
Molasses, Coffee, Chocolate & furniture wood; the
difference then in the State of trade now, and before
the restrictions, is exactly in the ratio in which
the U States can undersell other nations in those
articles required by the colony. On my arrival
here I had the pleasure to find that not a sin-
gle vessel from or belonging to the North of Europe
had arrived in the Colony or have I heard of any
to the leeward of this having arrived. I have
further the satisfaction to inform you that a letter
has been put into my hands from the first house
in London to their correspondents here, giving a
list of twenty three different articles (all of
which are required by the Colonies) the pro-
ductions of the U States, as also the North of
Europe, shewing in the clearest manner the im-

possibility

possibility of the latter to compete with the former in the supplying of the Colonies even in the circuitous manner that they now do it, and therefore the Mercantile houses in England have declined all Speculation that way, thó some have candidly told me, that such were their inclination to second the views of their Government that they would prefer doing business with the people of Hamburg to gain even a small profit sooner than encourage the pretentions of the Government of the U States. This is an acknowledgement from the best authority and althó I have always thought that we had nothing to fear from the north of Europe (vide my former communication on the subject from this place), yet I am now more fully satisfied. I find by letters received last night, that the Government of Martinique and Guadeloupe after the 1st January will no longer allow american cargoes to be sold from board to board, nor landed for exportation; the whole duties must be paid on the landing of the cargo, and not a cent returned if reexported. This is a most vexatious order and will militate greatly against this place as a great deal of their supplies come through Martinique, and the Merchants are exclaiming violently against the Governor of that Colony on account of the circumstance. All kind of american provisions and supplies are low here, with the exception of Staves and they will continue so as long as the circuitous trade is allowed, and the introduction of <u>all</u> our productions into British North America, with or without the permission of the two Governments. Flour

is

is retailing as low as $ 2½ and the Merchants tell me that they beleive it will never be higher. I understand that American vessels are to be allowed to take Salt from the Salt Islands, because they are in a State of Starvation and cannot exist without us. I am further informed by a Gentleman (but how far correct I know not) that our vessels* will shortly be permitted to come in ballast to the whole of the West India Islands and take away cargoes. If this should be the case it merely confirms the opinion I have long formed, that so long as the British Government can get the colonies supplied, as they now do, they will continue closed to our flag and will only open them when by some unforeseen calamity they are compelled to do so.— but whether our Government will tolerate a trade of so humiliating a character, is another thing. I am aware that there is a large party of the Citizens of the U States who are desirous of seeing the trade open again, and are perfectly regardless whether our pride, or national honor is sacrificed or not so that end is obtained. These are persons trading to the Colonies, and with the exception of a few, neither the most enlightened nor patriotic of our Citizens; they will no doubt be very clamorous this Session of Congress & fill the house with petitions that may serve electioneering purposes, for which many are in reality got up by designing persons, becaus it is well known that the trade to the W. Indies is by no means advantageous. The English Colonies consume as much of our productions now as they did before the Interdict, and since they must have their Supplies from us,

it

* Such a thing was as talked in Council

it makes little difference whether they allow us to bring them to the threshold of their doors or enter the house, if the former, we are burthened with charges from 12 to $1500ª more, whereas in the latter case $70 or 80. Through the Small dutch port of Nicaria (90 miles East of Georgetown Demarara) that Colony receives whatever it may stand in need of from the U States.— Our countrymen arrive there daily; come down to Demarara sell their cargoes, and then charter English vessels at low rates to take it into port and deliver; in many instances their cargoes are brought in in this manner and retailed, especially Horses — and while I was there an american Brig came in as the captain said in distress, and through my influence he was permitted to sell the whole of his cargo, and being pitch pine lumber, made a fine Voyage. Guira on the Spanish maine Serves for the same purposes to Trinidad, as Nicaria to Demarara. The English Owners of small vessels are by no means averse to this kind of trade, as it employs their craft which otherwise would remain idle out of crop time. The Neutral Islands serve as Depots for the deposit of our produce from which the British Islands to leeward as well as this are supplied. It is true that the British Merchant is by no means pleased to see our captains following their property & selling it themselves, but they cannot help it: our enterprize and cleverness is far superior to theirs, and I do not believe that it would be possible to frame a law that our countrymen would not find means to evade or turn to their own account: under these circumstances I do not yet perceive that any serious injury to the general interests of the U States is likely to result from our vessels being interdict-

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ed the British Colonial ports. Herewith you will receive sundry documents, viz: No 1 an alphabetical list (with description) of the woods growing in the Colony of Demarara, much better arranged than that which accompanied my Dispatch of the 17th ultimo.- No 2. Demarara Crops for 1824 & 1825.- No 3. Account of the produce made in the Colony from the 1st day of October 1813 to 1820, and the number of vessels in which the same was Shipped. No 4. Expense on entering & clearing at Demarara. No 5. List of Estates in Dominico and also population, which I was unable to get when I made my report on that Island. No 6. Statement of the imports and exports of said Island. No 7 is miscellaneous but interesting.— Owing to a Severe attack attack of Rheumatism in my right Shoulder and arm, I have been under the necessity of employing a person to copy my dispatch and other Documents from Demarara, which accompanies this, you will therefore excuse any inaccuracies which may have crept in, as well as the writing.- I expect to leave this for Trinidad in two or three days, that is to say as soon as I can obtain a passage; In the mean time

I have the honour to be,
with profound respect,
Sir,
Your obedient and most
Humble Servant,
(signed) Robert Monroe Harrison.

To
The Honorable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington

Grenada 2nd March 1828

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I arrived here on the 24th Ultimo after having visited Tobago, Trinidad and St Vincents, where I was detained fourteen days before a passage could be had for this place. As you have been pleased to direct me to report separately on each Island, I shall as heretofore commence with that of Tobago (taking the rest in succession).

This colony has a Slave population of 15000 souls, free people of colour 1000; whites 300. The average Crops are about 8198 Hogsheads of Sugar, 777 Tierces of ditto, 225 Bbls of ditto, 5294 puncheons of rum, 83 Hogsheads of ditto; 417 punch.s of melasses, 63 Hogshds of ditto and 130 Bbls ditto. The supplies required for the wants of this Island will be found in answer to the 1st Question, Viz.t A very small quantity of corn meal, Flour, Rice, Bread, Tobacco, Pitch, Tar, Lumber, Staves, Shingles, Spars, Horses & Cattle, Mules, Codfish, Pickled d.o Beef, Pork, Butter, Candles, Soap, Lard, Ironmongery, Plantation utensils, crates of ware, Gin, Brandy, &c

To the 2nd Ques. A considerable quantity of W.I. Lumber, Spars &c comes from the British north American provinces, as does their Beef* and Pork, with an exception of some from England. Flour comes through Barbados for the use of the Troops but that for the Inhabitants, from the Neutral Islands, which is not much, as they prefer roots, such as the yam, Eddoe & potato, of which there is a great abundance, so much so, that the negroes are fed altogether on them with the addition of Salt fish: therefore have no occasion for corn meal or corn, but what they do consume come from the U States through the Neutral Islands as does their

* Though these two articles are originally put up in the U States from whence they are introduced into Canada and the other provinces.

this R.O Staves, ℔ pine lumber, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, Horses, and occasionally Mules, Sheep and Poultry, which before the Interdict the americans used to bring in abundance. A good Turkey is now worth from $5 to 10 and fowls & ducks in proportion. Butter, cheese, plantation Stores, Ironmongery, crates of ware, Dry Goods, Porter, &c from England; Gin, Brandy & French wines from the Neutral Islands, great part of which being smuggled into the Colony.

To the 3rd Ques. From the circumstance of this Island's raising sufficient roots &c to feed their negroes and many of the whites, such as Mechanicks, Managers, overseers &c, their consumption of Breadstuffs is very small, consequently they are but little dependent on foreign countries for that article. The mountains are crowned with Woods which might answer as Substitutes for a few of those articles which they get from foreign countries, but will never be worked or used in any quantity, from the difficulty of carriage & expense of labour, which would make foreign lumber, & cheaper at almost any price than their own, it may therefore be said that they are dependent on foreign countries for every thing which I have mentioned in answer to Question the 1st, with the exception of negro provisions.

Ans.r to Ques. 4th. The U States supply them through the Neutral Islands with ℔ pine lumber, R.O Staves Tar, pitch, rosin, Turpentine, cypress Shingles, Flour, Corn meal, Corn, Rye, Rice, pease, Beans, horses, cattle Sheep & Poultry, cheaper and better than they can obtain elsewhere, and if permitted could furnish Beef, Pork, Candles, Butter, Hogs lard, Cheese, Salt fish and many other articles, if not equal to those from England, good enough in quality to answer all their purposes. There are a great many Merchants in the different

Colonies

Colonies that order Cargoes of lumber and other articles from the U States to be brought out to St Barts, from which they again import them in their own vessels, (several having clerks or a branch of their Houses established there). By that means there is always a constant supply on hand, and the prices of articles kept pretty uniform, except in some cases where from unforeseen circumstances it cannot be avoided: for example, a month ago, Staves were so scarce in most of the Islands that they readily sold for, from $ 75 to 80. But taking the average state of the markets since the Interdict, the prices of american productions in general have not risen much, nor will they so long as the circuitous trade is allowed, and the introduction of our articles into the British North American Colonies as they are at present.

Ans.r to Quest 5.th Vide Answer to this Quest. in my report from Demarara and other places

Ansr to Quest 6.th No intercourse nor trade whatever has taken place, a few Norway deals have been brought out in English vessels from Liverpool but they are by no means saleable.

To the 7.th Ques. Vide Ans. to this Quest. in my report from Demarara.

To the 8.th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 9.th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 10.th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 11.th Ques Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto

To the 12.th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto ditto.

To the 13.th Ques. This Island in a commercial point of view is not of much consequence to the U States, the whole amount of imports from thence for the year 1826 being only £ 15000 Stlg and exports in American Vessels £ 14472. The tonnage inwards

was

was 1200 Tons, outwards 1166, whilst the Imports from the British North American Colonies amounted to £ 11900. But in order that you may be more fully informed of the nature and extent of our trade to this place, I send you herewith an official return (marked A) of the imports from the 5th January 1825 to the 5th January 1826, as also those from British North America marked B. The planters and inhabitants generally of this Colony expressed a great wish to me to see the Intercourse opened, and I have no doubt of their sincerity. Believing that my remarks and observations on this Colony have been extended as far as the nature of your instructions would admit or be useful to the department, - I shall now do myself the honour to report to you such information &c as I have acquired during my visit to Trinidad. -.- This is a fine and valuable Colony and would be more so if the British Government would permit the Slaves to be removed to it from the old worn out Islands, where in many instances both they and their masters are in great want. It resembles Demarara as regards most of its productions; furnishing ground provisions in abundance, not only sufficient to supply their negroes and lower class of people, but capable of feeding five times the number of their present population, and therefore require neither Corn nor corn meal from the U States. The Slave population consists of 15291 Souls. Free black & coloured 15721. Whites 3280. Indians - 655. Chinese* 11. The crop of 1825 consisted of

From the 30th November 1824 to the 30th Novem. 1825 there arrived at the Port of Spain the following number of vessels belonging to the U States, Say 49 Brgs 21 Schrs and from that period to the 30th Nov. 1826 when the colonial ports were closed 1 Ship 59 Brgs 41 Schrs & 1 Sloop, making about 3400 Tons more for the last 12 months that the ports were open, than for the 12 months preceding. This increase can in part be accounted for by the numerous arrivals from every section of the States immediately preceding the closing of the Ports, when the Stock of American provisions on hand was estimated to be adequate to the consumption for six months and the prices that were generally obtained were scarcely sufficient to pay cost & charges to the American Shipper. The Stock of Tobacco in the importers hands at this period is rising 300 Hhds a quantity more than sufficient for 12 mths consumption, notwithstanding the increased and increasing demand for the article within the three years past.

* Brought here to cultivate the Tea-plant.

of 22666 Hhds, 1241 Tierces and 8520 Bls of Sugar. 2,235,935 lb of Coco, 274,735 lb of Coffee. 58,189 lb of cotton. 346,543 Gallons of Rum 855,814 Gallons of Melasses. 10,674 Bls of Corn, 4534 Bls of Manioc. In the Island, there are 8 Water Mills, 7 Wind mills 246 cattle Mills, 16 Steam Engines, 163 Coffee Mills 1263 Boilers and Moulds, 141 Stills - 36666 Gallons, 721 carts, 247 Boats, 718 Horses, 316 Mares, 4553 mules, 1288 cows, 1076 calves, 283 Bulls and 1369 Oxen. N. 1 will shew the kind of supplies which are required by the wants of this Colony as also the exports and amount in Sterling money.

Ans^rs to 2^d Ques. Vide Answer to this Quest in my report from Demarara.

To the 3^d Ques. This colony as I before stated raises immense quantities of ground provisions for the support of the labouring class; particularly the plantain which they prefer to Flour, commical or Corn; this latter article they raise also in considerable quantities, and if necessary could produce much more, as the soil is well adapted to the cultivation of it. —

The woods abound with valuable timber similar to Demarara, but as the country is very mountainous and labour high, it is little used except by those persons far in the Interior, at a great distance from the Town: and although the Shingles made from the Walaba will last for half a century or more, they find it cheaper to import Slate from England, the freight of which is a mere trifle as they get them by the light Ships coming out for Sugars, &c. The owners and Captains being glad to take them out to save the expense of Ballast. This Island being very extentive. —

5 Staves are split and prepared by the American Negroes at $10 p^m in small quantities in the interior. These people have taught the Colonists to plant Corn & Tobacco as in the U.S. which succeeds well & will likely be attended to, as it's peculiar flavor commands a price from 50 to 60 p^ct above the american leaf.

tensive with a great deal of level land, well watered, there is nothing to prevent the Inhabitants from cultivating Rice in abundance as at Portoria, where it is produced in the high as well as low grounds. The soil is also well adapted to the Culture of Tobacco, Peas, Peanuts all kinds of Pulse, but owing to its scanty population, and the high price of labour, none of those articles are cultivated to any extent, not even vegetables sufficient for culinary purposes on the Estates. The cultivation of Cane and manufacture of Sugar (as they yield the inhabitants a greater profit) engage all their attention, and it is no uncommon thing to see a Planter sit down to his dinner with no other vegetable on the table but the yam and plantain; although the soil on his estate is capable of producing all the garden Stuffs of Europe. This was formerly the case in Jamaica also at the commencement of the Revolution in St Domingo, things however are changed, as there are no where to be seen a finer vegetable market than at Kingston just now; this is owing to the Industry of the French Emigrants from St Domingo, who escaped with a negro or two to Jamaica; and for their support, commenced little kitchen gardens on waste Spots, that were given to them for the purpose round about Kingston, (which is surrounded with an immense common, apparently barren from the circumstance of no attempt having been made to cultivate it). These same people cast their eyes also to the mountains, and pointed out to the proprietors the possibility of cultivating coffee upon them; they were laughed at by many but at length found a few liberal and enlightened persons disposed to make the experiment, which succeeded beyond their most sanguine

guine expectations. The greater part of the coffee exported from that Island at present is produced on the Mountains, formerly covered with forests of wood, impenetrable to white men but now the most valuable property in the colony. Trinidad situated as it is, at the embouchure of one of the finest rivers in the world (running through the richest country imaginable) in a Military, or commercial point of view possesses great advantages but I am convinced that so long as they can have all their wants supplied with so much ease as at present, thro the neutral Islands and the British provinces, neither this colony, nor any of the others will ever avail themselves of the local resources, which their Soil and climate offer, for the cultivation or manufacture of any of the articles they now obtain from abroad unless driven to it by necessity. It may therefore with truth be said that at present they produce little or nothing within themselves if we except ground provisions, corn, some Tobacco, a few Staves which are split by the american negroes at $10 pont.

Ans: to the 4th Ques. Vide Answ to this question in my report on Tobago and other places.

To the 5th Ques. Vide Answer to this question in my report from Demarara and other places.

To the 6th Ques. Vide Ans: to this question in my report from Tobago I should inform you however that a few sawed staves have been brought here in English vessels from Liverpool which were cut and manufactured in the north of Europe but has not been found to answer. I am told however by the Merchants that the defect will be remedied by splitting & dressing them as we do. These gentlemen as I have before informed you, being violently opposed to the renewal of the intercourse readi-

ly

by pretend to find substitutes in all countries for those articles, which the U States heretofore furnished the Colonies with, well knowing that their own vessels would then be the carriers, which under other circumstances would not be the case; with them and the planter there is a difference of opinion, the latter being most anxious to see the Interdict taken off, because he is convinced that they can nowhere procure their supplies so cheap and good as from the U States, independent of the loss of the Barter trade, which to them is every thing.

Most of the Estates being mortgaged in the Mother-Country their owners are compelled to ship their sugars to England and formerly retained the rum & molasses (which are here called the offal) in the colonies to purchase supplies from the Americans for their Estates. These articles go now to Europe where in consequence of the markets being overstocked they are sacrificed. The nett proceeds of the Shipments after paying freight and the many shameful charges with which it is taxed in the Mother Country, do not in most cases amount to a great deal; but however small it may be, It is the only fund which the proprietor has now to draw upon for the supplies of his Estate at present, — So much for the act of parliament of 1825.

To the 7th Ques. Vide ans. to this in my report from Demarara.
To the 8th Ques. Vide ditto ditto from Antigua
To the 9th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto
To the 10th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto
To the 11th Ques Vide ditto ditto ditto
To the 12th Ques Vide ditto ditto ditto
To the 13th Ques. Having stated pretty fully the resources of this Island in my answer to the 3rd Quest, I have little now to add to that Subject. It is a great and valuable Colony to G. Britain increasing in riches and population continually and with these its

wants

wants; some of which can only be supplied from the UStats, and many others may be had there cheaper and better than elsewhere. Should the Interdict be taken of and the British Government allow the removal of Slaves from the Old Colonies to cultivate the canes, this Island will become a place of much consequence, to the UStates in a commercial point of view. We have nothing to fear for many years to come from the adjacent coast of Columbia as regards competition in the supplying of that colony nor shall we ever until the people of that republic are regenerated or an entire new population, as the present race with few exceptions have very little idea of commerce or industry. The only thing they bring to Trinidad at present is Corn & mules, and very few indeed of them, as the exportation is prohibited. The government of Trinidad is despotic in every sense of the word, and he who is at the head of it at present, not only act up to the very letter of the Spanish Law as regards its severity, but avail himself of that of England when it suits his purposes. There are a multitude of useless offices here most annoying & vexatious to persons engaged in trade as well as others, these places are created and filled by Men as it would appear (in many instances) for the express purpose of acting as Spies on the rest of their fellow creatures; for a despotic government cannot exist without wretches of this kind. The town called Port de Espagne the capital has fine broad and clean Streets but few persons are to be seen in them and those you do see, have something melancholy in their aspect* and by no means disposed to communicate with a Stranger until they ascertain his reception at Government

House

E. Is a paper received from a mercantile House in Barbados, they have several vessels and one of those establishments

* natural consequences arising from despotism

House, and so particular are they on this subject, that little notice is taken of letters of introduction until this necessary form has been gone through. There are three very fine Squares in this place planted with trees and surrounded with iron railings: but nothing is ever seen in them but a few Goats and fouls that range about unconscious of the existence of so great a man as Sir Ralph Woodford and of course care little about him; all these things are intirely for Shew, and as he is not accountable for money taken from the treasury (nor ever gives a receipt for what he takes) he can expend that belonging to the Public with impunity. He lives in dignified retirement like the grand Lama, admitting but a very chosen few to his celestial abode and presence. On Solemn festivals however of the Catholic Church and on great State occasions, he gratifies the people with a view of his Sacred person which at that time (with all his Stars &c about him) is as refulgent and Shines as conspicuously brilliant as the luminary of System. Under Such a government administered by a Man like this, there are many restraints laid on Commerce as well as the march of intellect in various ways.— As an inquiry into this mans character and government forms no part of my instructions, I trust you will pardon me for occupying so much of your time with him, but as he entertains a very poor opinion of our General character and institutions[R] I could not close my observations on Trinidad without taking notice of Sir Ralph James Woodford, Baronet, &c &c &c &c whom I shall now leave with

R. As a proof of which Soon my arrival here from Mr Charles L. Bartlett our consul doing duty in a Squadron of Hussars as a private. I do not blame him for not receiving Mr B. as a consul as that depended on his sovereign but sure ly nothing can justify his compelling him to carry arms. Besides it has ever been the Usage of all nations to respect a commission granted by the highest authority known in a Government, though you may accuse the individual in his official character Who is the bearer of it. It is a courtesy due, and never dispensed with among nations

with all his espionage, secret police and fanciful greatness for a more agreeable subject, namely my report and observations on the valuable little colony of St. Vincents. This Island has a Slave Population of about 24000 Souls (about 20135 are employed in agriculture), 4000 Black & free coloured people and 1000 whites. The average crops are 18549 Hhds of Sugar - 1500 lbs each, 5321 puncheons of Rum, 116 Gall.s each, 7572 punch.s of Melasses 100 Gall.s each, 13743 lbs coffee, 23110 lbs of Cocoa, 628 Bales of Cotton - 260 lbs each. This colony has 52 registered vessels out of the port of Kingston (which is the capital of the whole Island) say 9 Brigs, 19 Schooners, 24 Sloops, amounting to 3042 Tons and navigated by 395 Men; some of these vessels trade to Europe and all to the American continent and Islands. The revenue which the Mother Country derives from this Colony, is said to amount to upwards of £ 500,000 Sterl.g, whilst the expense for the protection of it, &c, is very trifling, the Military Establishment never exceeds 250 men. The present Governor of this Island is Sir Charles Brisbane, a Rear admiral in the British navy, a most accomplished Gentleman and gallant officer, he has administered the Government for the unprecedented time of Nineteen years to the entire Satisfaction of all the inhabitants, who view him more in the light of a father than any thing else. Being an enlightened liberal man, he entertains a very high opinion of the genious and enterprize of our Countrymen, and Speaks in warm terms of our Navy; of which no one can be a better judge; I have not only received the most distinguished marks of attention from him as regards hospitality, &c but he has also afforded me every facility in the acquirement of information at the different public offices. Though

I

I may never have it in my power to reciprocate his attentions, yet I trust my government will not be unmindful of them when occasion offers. The kind of Supplies required by the wants of this Island (vide Question the 1st) are Wh. & P. pine lumber, R. & Wh. oak Staves Shingles, Hoops, Oars, handspikes, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, Turpentine, Paints oil, canvass, Ironmongery, Stationary, Dry Goods, Earthenware, Glass, Plantation utensils, Soap, candles, Hogs lard, Butter, Beef, Pork, cheese, cod fish, Herrings, oats, a small quantity of flour, Rice, bisc.ut, Horses, Mules, asses, oxen, Sheep & Poultry. A small quantity of cornmeal & Rye and various manufactures, such as Hats, Shoes, & Saddlery; Wines Brandy, Porter and Gin.

Ans.r to the 2nd Ques. Vide Ans.r to this Quest.n in my report from Demarara

Ans.r to the 3d Ques. This colony feed their negroes the year round on ground provisions, of which they not only have sufficient for their own consumption, but export great quantities to the neighbouring Islands, particularly a kind of farine, or flour called Manoc, made from the root of the cassada, which is in great demand in the French Islands; the planters and all the labouring class of people there as well as here, prefering it to Flour or Corn meal, indeed all their messes (of which they have a great <u>many</u> <u>unknown</u> to any other part of the <u>world</u>) are invariably mixed up with it and of course consume very little flour or breadstuffs; as you will perceive by a Statement of Imports marked I. hereunto enclosed. The Flour brought here is principally consumed by the Garrison and higher classes of white people; the cornmeal by Negroes before an Estate is

perfectly

perfectly established, the Rye by a few Germans & foreigners. There is a good deal of valuable wood in this Colony, but being very mountainous and difficult to be got at, is little used, so that they are entirely dependent on foreign countries for lumber, as well as for every other thing enumerated in answer to Quest. the 1st. with the exception of ground provisions for the Slaves and labouring class of people. The whole Island is intersected with fine streams of fresh water on which are constructed many mills for the grinding of cane, - the larger water wheels and all the works being solid cast Iron. Others have Steam Engines and some few cattle Mills. There are 91 or 92 Sugar Estates on the Island & none of them so involved but would have 40 p Ct remaining over after paying up their mortgages. In fact I consider the inhabitants of this Island to be as Independent, or more so than any of the Colonies. I am Satisfied they are the most happy. The planters to a man regret the non-intercourse and the Merchants with a few exceptions are too polite to say any thing on the Subject but as they have a great many vessels, they naturally wish for a continuation of the present state of things. There is one house here who monopolize most of the business and as they have a great Capital, make contracts in the U States to have supplies of all kinds sent out and landed at St Eustatia and elsewhere, - where they receive it in their own vessels of which they have several. They supply a great number of Estates and many of the planters are dependant on them. It is therefore very natural that they should oppose the renewal of the intercourse and as there are two brothers (one in the Council and the other Speaker of the House who is a very clever man) they have great weight,

not

not only here but with the Secretary or Minister for the Colonial Department, with whom they no doubt correspond on the Subject of Colonial Intercourse.

To the 4th Ques. Vide Ans.r to this Ques. in my report from Tobago.

To the 5th Ques. Vide ditto ditto in my report from Demarara & other places.

To the 6th Ques. No intercourse whatever has taken place, a few Norway Deals brought out from Liverpool in English vessels, which are unsaleable and also sawed Staves. Vide what I have said in Answer to this Ques. in my report from Trinidad which may be applied to all the Islands.

To the 7th Ques. Vide Answer to this question from Demarara.

To the 8th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto

To the 9th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto

To the 10th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto

To the 11th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto

To the 12th Ques. Vide ditto ditto ditto

To the 13th Ques. The colonies receive from the U States at this moment the same kind of Supplies in a circuitous manner, as they did before the Interdict, many of which can be obtained no where else, it may therefore be said that they are at all events dependent on the U States so far as these articles go, nor am I aware as yet, that there are fewer of our productions of every kind introduced, or consumed in the colonies now, than when the Ports were open. The reason assigned by the people of British N. America, and the advocates for the exclusion of our flag is, that they are fearful to embark their capital to any extent in trade until they have a positive assurance from the

British

British Government that the Colonial ports are to be for ever closed to the Entrance of our Vessels. In the event of that taking place they say that they can furnish the Islands with all they require. The wood-cutters of Demarara hold forth the same language as regards the supplying of these Colonies with lumber, timber & Staves. This remains to be proved, but in my humble opinion it can never be done until they have a population somewhat more dense at Demarara than it is now, which is not to be expected so long as the British Government persists in the same ruinous measures as regards their Colonies as they have pursued for some time past, I allude in this instance to their prohibiting the removal of Slaves, starving in one Colony, to another where they will be fed, and well taken care of. Allowing however that the population was five times as great as it is the Inhabitants would always employ their Slaves in the cultivation of Sugar, &c. in preference to any thing else, because it is more advantageous to them. In the event of great distress they might act otherwise, but would it be sound policy or to the interest of the mother Country to drive them to the necessity of doing so? I think not, the Colonists are incensed very much already at the unjustifiable measures of their Government, and if it was not for their weakness they would ere this have attempted to throw of its despotism. On this subject there is but one feeling throughout the Colonies, and I can affirm with truth that there are a very great proportion of the landed proprietors who would not be

sorry

sorry to be under the Government and the Laws of the U States Should the two countries ever be involved in war again (which I hope is far distant) americans will meet many friends in these colonies, and warm ones too; particularly at St Vincents, to which Island I have perhaps devoted somewhat more of my attention than the nature of your instructions called for, & shall now do myself the honor to report to you the observations and remarks which have come under my notice in this Colony - Grenada -

This Island has a Slave population of 24442 Souls, - Black and free people of color - 3892. White Inhabitants 834. Their average crops are about 28,332,252 lbs of Muscavado and 1350 lbs clayed Sugar, 401554 lbs of cotton, 39852 lbs coffee, 263,672 lbs of Cocoa, 1,167,354 Gall. of Rum, 259,217 Gall of Molasses, and the kind of Supplies which are required by its wants from foreign countries, will be found in

Ans.r to the 1st Ques.- Beef, Pork, Butter, Hogsland, cheese, soap, candles, Porter, ale, Wine, Brandy, Gin, oats, Rice, Dry Goods, Hats, Shoes, earthenware, Glass, Ironmongery, Plantation utensils, Harnesses, Saddles, Flour, Corn meal, corn, Rye, Horses, Mules, asses & oxen, Lumber, Shingles, Staves, Oars, Handspikes, Spars & Tobacco.

Ans.r to the 2d Ques. A considerable quantity of W. P. lumber, Spars, oars, R. O. Staves, ash ditto, comes from the British North American provinces, as does their Beef,* Pork, Hogsland & Butter, except that which they receive from England. Flour* is only used by the Troops and higher order of people, it comes from Barbados and the neutral Islands

* The greatest part of these from the U.S. via the British provinces.

* Through the neutral Islands

Islands: Cornmeal, corn, Peas, beans, Rice, Rye, Bis-
cuit, Horses, Mules and Asses from the same Source
as also P. Pine lumber, Staves, Shingles & Hoops.
Dry Goods of all kinds from England as well as
Coals, Crates of Earthenware, Saddlery, Harnesses,
Glass, Hats, Chintz or crockery ware, Shoes, Plan-
tation utensils, Ironmongery, oats, Soap, Can-
dles, porter & Beer. Tobacco from the U States
via the British N. American provinces and
neutral Islands; in fact all kinds of Supplies
are furnished to the Colony by means of the cir-
cuitous trade, but nothing direct from the North
of Europe; and very little of its productions in
any other way: Some few mules have been re-
ceived from Colombia and Some from England as
well as Horses, but they look to the U States entire-
ly for the latter article. A good many Cattle
come from Portorico with Hardwood for Mills
and the parts of Some particular buildings.
They are also in the habit of receiving ready made
Rum puncheons which come out full of Dry Goods
Cutlery, &c as also large Hhds of oats, Hams, coals,
and other articles that answer for Sugar casks;
and get likewise a considerable quantity of Hoops
from England.

× Through the neutral Islands.

Codfish from B. N. America.

To the 3d Ques. This Colony like St. Vincents raises sufficient quan-
tities of ground provisions to feed the Negroes and
the labouring class of people the year round, ex-
cept in Dry Seasons; when the Slaves are fed on
Cornmeal and fish; the others must shift for
themselves. By a recent act of the Colonial Le-
gislature approved by Majesty, "Sufficient por-
tions of land are to be allowed each Slave, for his
maintenance and 28 Working days besides Sundays,

between

between the 1st May and 31st January following for the purpose of cultivating such land, or when there is not sufficient land, some other provision to be made instead; together with a house for each family; a certain allowance of Salt and Salt fish or other food weekly, and proper clothing under the penalty, on refusal, of £10. To each Slave ¼ of an acre of land or weekly allowance in money 4s/6d currency in lieu thereof; a weekly allowance of ¾ pint of Salt and 2 lb Salt fish, or such other provisions as may be equivalent thereto.
Like St Vincents this Colony also raises and exports great quantity of the meal called Manoc, made from the root of the Cassada; but when they have a dry season it altogether fails, and they are then obliged to resort to Corn-Meal, Corn &c. consequently are dependent from abroad for every thing but ground provisions, and some corn which is raised in small quantities at a little Island dependent on this called Carriacou. The Island being well watered, Mills on a large & expensive Scale are erected on the Streams to grind their cane, some planters have Steam, and others Wind & Cattle Mills. The planters here like those throughout the whole of the Colonies are anxious to have the intercourse renewed, principally on account of the Barter trade, as also from a desire to see the two countries always on friendly terms. The merchants are much the same as elsewhere with the exception of those in the commission line who suffer by the interdict.

To

the 4th Quest. vide Answer to this Quest. in my report from Tobago.
the 5th Quest. Vide ditto ditto .. from Demarara & other places
the 6th Quest. Vide ditto ditto .. from St. Vincents & Trinidad.
the 7th Quest. Vide ditto ditto .. from Demarara.
the 8th Quest Vide ditto ditto .. from ditto
the 9th Quest Vide ditto ditto .. from ditto
the 10th Quest Vide ditto ditto . from ditto.
the 11th Quest. Vide ditto ditto . from ditto.
the 12th Quest. Vide ditto ditto . from ditto.

the 13th Quest. This is a fine Colony with several Good Harbours and roadsteads and before the Cession of Trinidad to Gt Britain, was much more valuable in a Military, as well as a commercial point of view than it is now; on account of its being so contiguous to the Mouth of the Orinoco and Spanish Maine: with the inhabitants of which it formerly carried on an extensive trade (principally contriband) beneficial to all parties but especially to this Island, which received Specie in payment for the immense quantities of Dry Goods shipped to that Country This trade is now knocked up, there being few Shipments from hence to the Colombian Republic at present, and nothing from thence to this place, but an occasional cargo now and then, of mules. All the articles which this colony formerly as well as others received direct from the U States come now through the Neutral Islands. (of which the americans are the carriers to the said Islands) and are bought here in their own craft. These colonies receive a great deal of american produce through the British provinces, which come here in English vessels they are therefore indirectly, if not directly dependent on the U States for these supplies, which from the circumstance of their being better and cheaper than can be ob-

tained

obtained elsewhere they will always give the preference and it will therefore be in vain for the British Government to hold out a temptation to the Northern powers or other nations to compete with the U States in the supplying of the Colonies.— Unless they could set bounds to the genius and enterprize of the American character; which so far from being limited, was preordained by nature's God to reach the utmost perfection that human nature is capable. And at this moment offering a Striking example (not only to the present but future generations) of the power and greatness to which a nation may be raised, by a prudent and wise Government, economical in its expenditures, and which protects and encourages the trade and industry of all its citizens.

The British nation have at length opened their eyes, and begin to see that none of the Powers who have grasped at, and accepted their reciprocity-System, had any equivalent to offer but the U. States, and altho' the Ship-owners, (jealous as they have ever been of the increase of our Shipping) complained loudly on the first instance of their Governments placing the vessels of the two nations on an equal footing: they now freely confess that no injury to their interest, from us has as yet been sustained by the free port act, but they complain bitterly and with some reason, of its having been extended to the petty northern powers: & so long as the circuitous trade is permitted the prices of American produce will not increase much in the British Colonies, and the planter will no other ways suffer but from the loss of the Carrier trade (which I have more fully explained elsewhere

where

where) and which to them is of the most serious consequence).

This being the last among the windward group of Islands, to which I have extended my observations, and having, as I conceive communicated to you every thing which deserved notice, I shall now do myself the honor to say something of St Christopher, Nevis, and Montserratt, which (if I except Tortola) are three of the poorest of the colonies: more involved in debt, liable to long droughts, very subject to Hurricanes & in the best of seasons do not raise ground provisions to serve more than three or four months in the year; consequently entirely dependent on foreign countries for supplies; their wants are the same as Antigua, and their whole imports from the U States before the Interdict about equal to that Island.

The Sugar crops of St Kitts varies from 14821 Hhds, 766 Tierces, 1,013 Bbls, down to 7,293 Hhds, 299 Tierces and 161 Bbls. The crop of Sugar at Nevis for the year , was 2375 Hhds 92 Tierces and 180 Bbls, Slave population, 9326.- whites, 501,- Black and free people of color, 603. —— Slave population of St Kitts 19,285,- whites 1610,- Black & free people of color, 1996. —— Slave population of Montserratt, 6,537- whites, 444,- Blacks & free people of colour, 402.- This latter island is in such a distressed State that the legislature has been under the necessity of petitioning Parliament to allow the Slaves to be removed, declaring their inability to support them,- in fact they are nearly in a State of Starvation, the land of the colony being completely worn out, and not yielding scarce any thing. None of the W. India Islands are so completely dependent on foreign countries

tries

countries for their supplies as Antigua, Montserratt, Nevis, St Kitts and Tortola (with the exception of the Salt keys) as they cannot exist without foreign aid, but being in the neighbourhood of St Eustatius, St Barts and St Thomas, are now well supplied, and in case of Hurricanes never fail to open their ports to the direct trade. From what I have said you may easily imagine what would be the situation of these colonies, and indeed many others, should an interdict be laid on the present circuitous trade. I therefore think that it will be continued as the Government is well aware that the necessities of the colonists require it, and that they would petition the King immediately if it was discontinued. The island of Tortola is of little consideration in a commercial point of view to the U States, as there has never been known more than three or four of our vessels to go there in a year, the inhabitants of that colony being in the habit of getting their supplies from St Thomas. Owing to various causes, none of which were within my power to control, such as indisposition & difficulty of getting a passage at all times, My progress has not been so rapid as I could have wished and I should in consequence thereof, have declined going to Jamaica, if the Packet for that Island had not been expected here in three or four days to take me there, and return to St Barts in time to afford such information to Government as may be derived from my observations on that Island: as I presume Congress will not adjourn before the month of June.

With great respect
I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient & most humble Servant
(sign) Robert Monroe Harrison

To The Honorable
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington

P. S. On the 24th Decem. last I informed you that a Man of War at Barbados had seized several vessels coming from Martinique and other neutral ports having the productions of the U.S. on board, he however after my departure thought proper to restore the whole, and I have not since heard of him or any other commander detaining vessels under similar circumstances. The Dutch Governor of Surinam having prohibited american vessels from going to the little port of Nicaree with their cargoes, and the Demarara colony vessels from going to load and purchase them, is a very injurious measure as regards our Citizens trading there as well as the Colony of Demarara which depends a good deal on getting various articles it stands in need of, in that circuitous way.

Kingston, Jamaica, 2d. April 1828

Sir

I do myself the honor to inform you that owing to the Jamaica packet having a long passage to Grenada, I did not arrive here until the 30th Ultimo. This Island has a Slave population of 320,000. Souls, white people 25,000. Free people of Color 40,000. and 2,250,145 acres of land in cultivation, 142,982* Stock, and the kind of Supplies which are required for the wants of the Colony from foreign countries will be found in

Answer to the 1st Quest Viz:

{ Flour, Rice, corn, cornmeal, Biscuit, Peas, Beans, oats, Beef, Pork, Butter, Cheese, Hogslard, potatoes, Soap, candles, oil, Paints, cutlery, crockeryware,

Tea

*This only comprehends that Stock on which taxes are paid to the Public, or the Island generally. Parochial taxes are paid for other Stock which make the number double.

Tea, wines, brandy, Gin, Porter, Plantation Stores and utensils, Dry Goods of all sorts, Hats, leather; W. I. & P.P. Lumber, Shingles, W. I. & R. O. Staves, Hoops, Heading, masts, oars, Tar, pitch, rosin, Hand-Spikes, Tobacco, codfish, Pickled ditto, Horses, oxen, mules, asses, &c

To the 2d. Inst. A considerable quantity of flour, Rice, corn, corn-meal, Biscuit, pease, beans, Pitch, tar, rosin, Tobacco, White & P. pine lumber, Shingles, R. & W.O. Staves, Heading, Hoops, Horses, Mules and asses come from the U States via the Island of St Thomas, St Jago de Cuba, St Domingo and British North America. Many of these articles are shipped from England also, but are all the productions of the U States, except a few horses, asses, Mules, and some naval Stores.— Beef, Pork, Butter, cheese, Hogs-lard, Dry Goods, Plantation utensils, Hats, leather, paints, oils, Teas, brandy, Gin, Beer, Porter, crates of ware, from the United Kingdom.

Several vessels have arrived here, since the Interdict, from the Baltic, under Russian and other flags, belonging to the Northern powers, laden with Staves deals, Pitch Tar, Dry Goods, Hardware, Oats, flour, Butter, cheese, Hams, and in fact all the productions of those countries which by law, are admissable in the colonies under a foreign flag. The introduction of the coarser kinds of manufactures, Hardware, Hams, Butter, cheese, from the North of Europe into the Colony, where they are warehoused and sold to the people of Colombia, and adjacent republics, is not only a great annoyance, but injurious in the extreme to the British Merchants, as the Germans are able to undersell them in consequence

* 4000 Bbls flour have been known to arrive from that place to Kingston & the out ports in one month; most of the Staves however come from St Thomas. The trade would be enormous from St Jago de Cuba to this Island if it was not on account of the enormous tonnage dues $22½ p. ton duty and the visit amounting to $80. A without distinction of size of vessel. A $5½ per day also to the Custom H. officer all the time the vessel is in port. Would there be no possibility of making some arrangement with the Spanish Government?— They say that the tonnage money is no higher than their vessels pay in the U States but they have none to speak of trading there, whilst we have Hundreds going to their ports, and the revenue they derive from the tonnage on our vessels is enormous.

While the Interdict continues an arrangement to lessen the charges on our vessels at St Jago de Cuba would be very desirable indeed, as from that port Jamaica would receive all her supplies; the distance is only 90 miles and with the usual trade wind a vessel would fetch from one place to another. The more ports we have to go to in the W. Indies the better as depots for our produce & we shall be the less liable to make sacrifices. In all probability some arrangement might be made with the Capt. Genl. of Cuba, without referring to the Government of Spain throughout consular agent, if he is a clever shrewd man the Priests are the spy agents, through whom the Capt. Gen. and Intendant is to be sounded, if such a thing should be contemplated. I have mentioned the Capt. Genl

quence of the freights and expenses of their vessels being much less than the English vessels. Here their cargoes are landed in the King's Stores, and pay no other or higher charges than the British Merchant; and as the Spaniards or people on the Maine never purchase English, when German manufactures are to be had, the latter always meet a ready Sale, whilst the former remains on hand. But in order to enable the Prussians more fully to compete with the British Merchants in the supplying of the people of Colombia and other new States bordering on it, I am informed here that a Royal Company has been established in Prussia for the express purpose of trading to, and making large depots of Merchandize in this Island, consisting, not only of articles to answer the wants of Colombia, &c but of this Colony also. So much for the British Free Trade System, which so far from injuring the U.S. (as it was the intention of that Government to do) has only recoiled on themselves.

The Flour which has recently arrived here from the North of Europe, was not much liked except one Cargo from Stettin which they tell me was not inferior to the finest Howard Street Baltimore and put up in Bbls of 196 lb, each. It is therefore believed that all Shipments in future to the Colonies will be made to resemble the Stettin cargo as near as possible.

In conversing with the best informed persons here I find that they have no reliance whatever on the U. North American* provinces for their supplies of Staves, as the time their coops come in, and when they are most in want, is the Winter; then the North American ports are closed with Ice, and are unsafe for any one

to

to approach that boisterous coast. they are therefor entirely dependent (if not direct) indirectly on the U States, and such have been their necessities of late, they are now compelled to send as far to windward as St Thomas for Staves to take of the crop (which will be abundant this year) as also for other articles. From the South American continent they receive nothing but Specie, some few hides, cocoa, Indigo, and a very small quantity of cochineal.

Ans.r to the 3.d Ques. This Island like Demarara & Trinidad raises great quantities of ground provisions and more Indian & Guinea corn than either, the Slaves being allowed a certain proportion of ground to cultivate for their Support, and when not sufficient negro-grounds, each negro to receive 3/6.d p.r week from the Estate. There is a great deal of wood on this Island, of various descriptions, but it is only used by the people in the interior for their mills, carts and machines which require very hard wood. It is also made use of in the building of some particular parts of Houses, not however at any time from choice but necessity; as they prefer Pitch Pine, it being easy to work, which is a great consideration with the Negroes & mulattos, who being the principal mechanicks are lazy beyond Measure. It may therefore be said that the Island does not at this time produce scarce any thing of consequence, that they were in the habit of receiving from Foreign Countries

previous

previous to the Interdict.

To the 4th Ques. The imports from the U States between the 29th day of September 1824 and the 30th of September 1825, were 53378 Barrels of flour, 1316 Barrels of Bread, 3537 bags of do, 3381 Kegs of Crackers, 2826 Tierces of Rice, 359 Bags of do 61644 Bushels of Corn, 20163 Bbls of Cn Meal 617 Barrels of Beans, 1379 Bags of do 50 Bbls of pease, 449 Bags do, 3,644,325 Staves & Heading 4,713,490 Shingles, 3,190240 feet of lumber, 148 Horses, 36 Mules, and 12 cattle.

Imports from the U.S. to the island of Jamaica between the 26th day of September 1826 and the 29th day of September 1827. To Kingston, 11056 Bbls of flour, 2197 Bbls of corn meal, 713 cwt 3 qrs 1 lb of Bread, 225,745 lbs rice, 3426 Bushels of Corn, Beans, oats &c 856,894 Staves & Heading, 2,371,440 Shingles, 1,580,664 feet of lumber, 3864 Hoop hoops, and 43 Horses. To the Out Ports 4032½ Barrels of flour, 978 Bbls corn meal 349 cwt 3 qrs 1 lb 27 lb of Bread, 82278 lbs of Rice 2174 Bushels of corn, beans, oats &c 2,421,628 Staves and 1,753,370 Shingles, 927,022 feet of lumber and 12 Horses.

A return of Imports and other articles from the U States of America, between the 29th day of September 1826 and the closing of the colonial ports with the U States.

To Kingston 7 Tons and 53 gallons of Beer and Cyder, 120,536 lbs leaf and 13248 lbs manufactured tobacco, 4600 lbs of Butter & lard, 14578 lbs of hams and cheese, 26 lbs Sperm candles, 259 Bbls of Pitch and Tar,

44481 Packages of potatoes and onions.

To the Out Ports 3 Tuns and 32 gall.s of Beer & Cyder, 24,604 lb.s leaf and 533 lb.s of manufactured tobacco 11278 lb.s of Soap 2392 lb.s Butter and lard, 7226 lb.s hams and cheese, 1682 lb.s Sperm and 63 lb.s of tallow candles, 111 Barrels Pitch and tar, and 1504 packages of Potatoes and onions.

From the 29th September 1826 to the 29th September 1827, there arrived in the Island from foreign ports in Europe, that is to say from the Continent, 1145 Bbls of Flour, 108 cwt. 1 q.r 12 lb.s of bread, 11183 Bushels of Corn, beans, oats &c., 24095 Staves and heading, 66053 feet of lumber and 24020 Wood Hoops. From the British Plantations to Kingston 12178½ Bbls of flour, 2346 Bbls of C. Meal 292 cwt. 3 q.r 8 lb.s of bread, 160744 pounds of Rice, 1559 Bushels of Corn, beans, oats &c 52288 quintals of dry fish, 161 Tierces, 23950 Barrels of and 604 Kits of pickled fish, 632994 Staves & heading, 1261009 Shingles, 2,450,362 feet of lumber, 59000 wood hoops and 5 Horses.

From foreign ports within the Tropics imported in British vessels. 1612 1 Bbls of flour, 1596 Bbls of Corn meal 51 cwt. 2 q.r 14 lb.s of bread, 25901 lb.s of Rice, 16442 bushels of Corn, beans, and oats, 194054 Staves and heading, 193660 Shingles, 23273 feet of lumber, 7 Horses, 297 Mules, 32 asses, and 2 cattle.

To the Out ports of this Island 1099 Barrels of flour, 871 Bbls of Corn meal, 111 cwt. 0 q.r 11 lb.s of bread, 37420 lb.s of Rice, 805 Bushels of Peas, Corn & oats &c 449440 Staves and Heading, 113000 Shingles 67566 feet of lumber, 319

Horses

Horses, 48 mules, 16 Asses, and 52 cattle From the British Plantations: 2682 Bls of flour, 227 Bls of Corn meal, 221 cwt 2 qrs 25 lb of bread, 24776 lb of Rice, 1817 Bushels of Corn, Beans, oats &c 72267 Staves and Heading, 886125 Shingles 3.077.534 feet of lumber and 13000 wood hoops.

The U States supply all the articles above mentioned cheaper and better than they can be obtained from any other country; and notwithstanding the Interdict most part of them are still received circuitously from them, clogged with double freight in most instances as well as other charges. Staves are now selling at $64 pmt and have been as high as $80 @ 90 There is no wood growing in this colony that will hold Spirits, when made into casks, they are therefore entirely dependent on foreign countries for W & R O. Staves and although their own woods will do well enough for sugar, coffee casks, &c; from the difficulty of working, and dragging it from the mountain (where it mostly grows) they seldom use it when R & W O. Staves can be had, besides it is very heavy, and therefore objected to, on account of tare in England.

* The wood being extremely heavy, so much so, that it sinks in the water.

Before the Interdict that is to say from the 30th September 1824 to the 30th September 1825, the U States had 44876 tons of Shipping trading to the Island of Jamaica, whilst the whole tonnage of Great Britain & Ireland was 77665 Tons, and British America 38000, Spanish Maine & neighbouring islands 12172. Foreign vessels 4347 tons. And the Island had

4864 Droghers employed, belonging to it. From the 29th day of September 1826 to the 29th day of September 1827, the tonnage from G. Britain and Ireland had employed in trade to this Island 91131 tons, and from British N. America 33372. which Shows that the tonnage employed in trading to this Colony from the N. American provinces has not increased very much whilst that from the United Kingdom has increased 13520 tons.

Ans! to the 5th Ques. There are very few articles which this Colony require that may not be had in Small quantities in other Countries as well as the U States, but by no means Sufficient for its consumption. T. Pine however, which is always required in the Building of Houses as well as vessels & the repairs of them in this Island, is only to be had from the U States. Tobacco, Corn, cornmeal, flour, rye, bread, Rice, pulse, Horses, cattle, R. O. Staves, Shingles, Tar, Pitch, Rosin, turpentine and Spirits of do, are articles which can be obtained in part either on the Continent of Europe, British America, Brazils, Africa, Portorico, India, Colombia, and other S. American States; but as Before Stated, not in such quantities as are necessary for the consumption of the colonies. This being the case I think it will be no exaggeration on my part to say, that the U States furnish them with at least Seven eighths of all the above mentioned articles, which from the circumstance of their Scarcity in other Countries cannot be furnished any where else. Interested and ignorant persons as well as those who "view every thing american through the

jaundiced

jaundiced eye of prejudice" have reported differently on this subject, but their Statements may be easily refuted by any one giving himself the least trouble to examine the importations into the different Colonies, and trace out the Ports from which they were originally exported. Many foolish Publications have appeared here, as well as at other places, in which the authors have endeavoured to prove, that with their own resources and the assistance of other countries they may be perfectly independent of the U.S. for their supplies." But men of Sense treat such argument with the contempt they merit.

the 6th Ques. About 4347 Tons of Shipping from the North of Europe have arrived here Since the Interdict with cargoes as pr. Statement* in answer to Question the Second, to which I beg leave to refer you for every thing on this head.

*With which there were about 5000 Bbls of Flour

Answ. to the 7th Ques. This trade has been carried on, partly by British, and the Shipping of the Northern Powers, and as I am informed here, it will be increased on the part of the former, Vide Answer to Question the Second.

to the 8th Ques. Vide Answer to this Question in my remarks on Antigua, ands as the Voyage is much longer to this Island from the North of Europe, and attended with greater Peril every article coming from there will be proportionably dearer.

to the 9th Ques. If the Interdict continues, the direct trade from the North of Europe to this Colony (such as it is) will be carried on under the Prussian, Danish and Hanseatic flags, as also the British to the exclusion of the others as much

as

as may be in their power so to do: for I can hardly suppose that they will ever permit Strangers to become the carriers of their Supplies, more especially when we take into consideration, their extreme jealousy of every thing that in a manner tends to lessen their maritime greatness.

To the 10th Ques. Vide Answer to this Quest. in my remarks on Antigua.— the transportation of property however from the neutral ports to this Island is carried on by large vessels freighted, and some belonging to the Colony, and as it comes from a great distance, only the largest class of Droghers and prime Sailing craft are employed.

To the 11th Ques. As this Colony has suffered but very little except for Staves and some other trifling articles, I do not think they are likely to remonstrate or petition to their Government on the Subject of the Interdict, so long as the circuitous trade is permitted and their supplies are obtained with such facility as at present. As Englishmen they think we should have instantly grasped at the terms on which their colonial ports were opened to us; not reflecting for a moment that in all transactions between independent nations on important Subjects, that there is a certain <u>etiquette</u> and forms of <u>courtesy</u> to be observed, which on principles of perfect <u>equality</u> can never be dispensed with. There are some however who are candid enough to acknowledge that Mr Gallatin was treated in an unbecoming and captious manner by Mr Canning.

The greater part, that is to say, all the well

informed

informed, intelligent Planters, as also the Commission Merchants trading with the U States are anxious to see the Interdict taken off; the former on account of the Porter trade, which enabled them formerly to supply the want of their Estates so much cheaper, and with greater facility than at present; the latter from interested motives having now but little to do with small capitals, and the times not such as to offer any temptation whatever for the employment of it to advantage.

The Mother Country are pursuing measures which, if persisted in will ultimately bring down, ruin on the Planters; they are therefore loud and Vehement in their expressions of dissatisfaction, which is the only means of resistance (within their reach at present) to the arbitrary mandates of their Government, but would most assuredly resort to something more effectual if their means were not so limited. But circumstances may hereafter occur, such as war with some of the continental powers, and perhaps the U.S. when the Colonies may take advantage of the occasion to do justice to themselves. They are however a loyal, generous people, (and like the people of the U.S. when under the British Dominion) loth to resort to extremities with their Government until driven to it by necessity.

Answ. to the 12th. Vide answer to this Question in my observations on abridged; there are however certain impositions in the different offices &c. to which all Strangers in foreign countries are more or

less

less liable, especially those who do not Speak the language. For example in some Islands scarce any fees on Shipping are exacted by the Governor and the colonial officers; whilst in others they are enormous and not laid on according to the Size of the vessels.

To the 13th Ques. From the circumstance of this Island being so near to the Colombian coast, and that of some of the other Republics, it carries on an immense trade in Dry Goods, for which the Merchants in most instances receive Specie in payment and very little of the productions of those countries, in consequence of the Inhabitants being for years involved in a sanguinary and cruel war (during which the Soil remained uncultivated) and they carried on but little commerce, the population has therefore greatly decreased and years will yet elapse before the resources of those fine countries are brought into operation. At present they are dependent for almost every Species of Dry Goods, House hold furniture, Cattery, Glass, Earthenware, and in fact all kinds of manufactures, on Foreign countries; and as this Island is a Warehousing port not only for British Subjects, but those of Foreign States, who have accepted & reciprocate their free trade System, Some idea may be formed of the extensive trade carried on out of the various Ports in this Island (of which it has many) to the republic of Colombia. Several persons here are impressed with an idea that the trade from the Northern powers will increase, in consequence of a company being formed in Prussia under the patronage of the

King

his majesty
merely al-
ed the compa
the honor of
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King for the express purpose of trading to the Island. But when we consider the length of the Voyage (being unable to make more than one in a year) the Bulkiness of the articles (and their small value) required by the wants of the colony, I can never bring myself to agree with them on that Subject. But allowing for a moment that the trade should increase, will the Prussians be able to sell their lumber, Staves Pitch, tar, Rosin, flour, &c as cheap as those things are to be had (even in the circuitous manner that they are at present) from the U States, and so long as this circuitous trade is permitted, I am clearly of an opinion that we have nothing to fear from any power whatever. The Ships and vessels from the North of Europe, will make a convenience of the British warehousing ports, for the purpose of inundating the Continent of South America with German manufactures, (which as I before stated) the people of those countries prefer to any other Goods. therefore the trade will be rather injurious than otherwise; more especially when it is considered that the greater part of the articles which their cargoes[P] consist of (with the exception of the trifling quantity of lumber, Staves, Pitch and Tar that they bring) are produced & manufactured in England.

When the nature of the trade from the Baltic to this Colony is fully known to the Scurrilous writers of Pamphlets and newspapers in England, we may reasonably suppose that the Prussians and other Northern powers as well as their own Ministers will come in for a share of some portion of the virulent abuse which

P Since writing the above I have ascertained that most or nearly all the cargoes brought here from the North of Europe were on British account: the one half of the amount of each cargo being advanced before the departure of the Vessel from the original port and there are only two houses in this Island that have had consignments of this kind.

which they now and have hitherto so liberally bestowed on the U States. And as the exclusion of our Flag from the British Colonies, with the apparent indifference evinced on the occasion by the Governme and rational part of the citizens of the U States (this somewhat galling to the feelings of these people) has left not a shadow of excuse for abusing us on the subject of the carrying trade direct. The boundary line now engages all their attention, and there is scarce a vile epithet to be found in the English language that is not applied and heaped upon the Government accordingly.

Formerly the Settlement of Honduras formed a part of this Government, but recently it has been made independent of it; and the Superintendant, as he is called, corresponds direct with the Minister for the Colonies. This Settlement (for colony you can scarcely call it) is now becoming a place of some consequence. In the year 1824 The Imports from the U States amounted to £ 26741.6.1. In the year 1825 to £ 34159.8.4. The exports for the first year £ 70096.11.6 and the Second year £ 74581.2.1. Twenty vessels amounting to 2514 tons and navigated by 137 men were employed in the Imports of 1824 from the U S and 27 Vessels, making 3288 tons and 168 men in the year 1825. The exports for 1824 employed 23 Vessels and 2655 tons and 137 men. For 1825 Twenty Six vessels, 3158 Tons & 161 men.

Smuggling has never been carried on to a great extent in this Settlement and many articles of course have not been mentioned in the Statement of Imports and Exports. The Settlement has 45 Vessels amounting to 1477 tons and navigated by 257 men in the coasting trade, which is increasing

The

The Militia of the place amount to 3 companies of Artillery 1 white, 1 Coloured, 1 Mulatto 1 of Grenadiers 8 companies of blacks, 1 of Coloured light Infantry. But whether all these companies are full and complete I know not. There is also a company of Regulars called the 1 st West India* all blacks, except the officers.

* Some of the same that were at New Orleans.

Major General Sir John Keane (who was at the Battle of N. Orleans) is the present Governor of this Island (Jamaica). The Militia of the Colony amount to 4200 men; the regular troops consist of a Battalion of the 22 Regt 33d 77th 84th 91st 2d West India and a detachment of the Royal artillery. Vice admiral the Honorable Charles Elphinston Flemming (of the white) is the commander on the Station. The fleet consists of 3 Heavy frigates of the first class 1 of 26 Guns, 1 - 74 which is a flag and receiving vessel. 4 Sloop Ships, 18 Guns each. 3 Brigs 10 Guns each, 5 Schooners - 5 guns each

My anxiety for you to hear from me as soon as possible from this place (the adjournment of Congress being near at hand) and an opportunity offering to send this dispatch by the way of St Jago de Cuba, under the care of our consul Mr Dacres, prevents me at this moment from reporting more fully on many things connected with this Island; but as I am compelled to wait a few days longer to get a passage to windward - Shall do my self the honour to address you again before my departure. In the mean time

I have the honor to be
with great respect, Sir,
Your obedient & most humble Servant
(Sgd) Robert Monroe Harrison

The Honorable Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington.

I.S. Distribution of the British Military forces in the windward and leeward Islands. Viz. Barbados Royal artillery detachment Sappers and Miners 1 Company. 1st (or Royal Regt of Foot) 25th (or King's own Borderers) Regt 1st W. India Regt 1 company. Demarara and Berbice. Royal Artillery detachment. 19th (1st York North Riding) Regt 60 Regt 2nd Battalion. Trinidad Royal Artillery Detachment. 86th (County Devon) Regt 4 Companies including Headquarters. Tobago Royal artillery Detachment 86th 2 companies. Grenada Royal Artillery Detachment 27th Regt (Inniskillen) Regt 3 compan. 1st West India 1 company. St Vincents Royal Artillery Detachment 27th Regt 3 compan. including Head-quarters. St Lucia Royal artillery Detachment 30th Regt 3 compn. 1st W. India 1 company. Antigua Royal Artillery Detachment 93d (Highlanders) Regt 1st W. India 1 company. St Kitts Royal Artillery detachment 93d Regt 2 compan. Montserratt 93d Regt 1 Company. The forces Stationed at Jamaica has already been given and at some future day, I shall make a report of the number of Militia in all the Islands with Sketches and drawings as soon as they are finished.

(Signd) Robert Monroe Harrison.

Kingston Jamaica.
11th April 1848.

Statement of Imports into Jamaica,
since the Interdict, from the North of Europe
and the Mediterranean, Viz.

Hanseatic Towns:

Bremen		Hamburg	
2355	Barrels of flour	1300	Bbls Flour
350	Barrels of Bread	135	Bags & Barrels of Bread
120	Boxes of Soap	614	Do. and Do. of Beans
54	Casks of Beer	134	casks of Beer
136	do. oats & Beans	50	Hhds of Beans
626	Firkins & Kegs Butter		
100	Kegs Lard		
6518	W.O. Staves		

From the Mediterranean

Trieste, Austria

405 casks of Indian Corn
1314 Bags of ditto
3532 pieces of lumber
22906 W.O. Staves
1211 Bundles of Wood Hoops
190 Damejeans Beans
60 Bags ditto
195 Boxes of Soap & Candles.

From Stettin in Prussia.

2030 Barrels of flour
24000 W.O. Staves.

The above are not the entire cargoes imported into the Colony but merely such parts of them as could be introduced under the american flag, & would conflict with the interests of the people of the U States. The charges on Shipping are immense in this Colony, notwithstanding the act of Parliament to abolish them. For example a Ship of 333 tons English, pay the following

Viz:

On entrance To Naval officer	£	3.	15. 0
" Secretary		3.	6. 8
" Receiver General		28.	5. 3
Tonnage		55.	10. 0
" Health officer		0.	15. 0
Hospital		12.	0. 0
Fees of Clearance for St. Thomas, Viz.			
Receiver General		3.	3. 4
Secretary		0.	10. 0
Naval officer		1.	11. 0
Hospital		2.	2. 0
Clerk of the Peace		0.	10. 0
Pilotage inwards & outwards		9.	9. 0
	£	120.	17. 3

The Merchants invariably charge
5 p cent on Disbursements —

British Brig Margaret
off St. Thomas 27th May 1828

Sir

Having at length arrived before this place where the vessel is now laying off and on, I do myself the honour to forward you a duplicate of my despatch of the 11th Ultimo, containing many additional notes and remarks, which from the circumstance of my having been detained at Jamaica until the 4th inst. I was enabled to obtain also a correct list from the Custom House of the Imports from the North of Europe and the Mediterranean, since the colonial ports were closed to our flag.

This

This is a document of considerable importance inasmuch as it clearly shews what little faith or dependence is to be placed on the reports or Statements of our Enemies or interested persons. Before I went to Jamaica I was informed that vessels were daily arriving in that colony from various ports of Europe, laden with every thing which formerly came from the U States and that no injury whatever had occurred from the non-intercourse.

How men can be so blinded by interest, & warped by prejudice, to make such Statements, I cannot tell; for so far from there being frequent arrivals from Continental Europe, not a vessel came in of that description during the whole of the month I remained in the Colony. But from St Jago de Cuba they were coming daily, as also from St Thomas, laden with Lumber, Staves, Shingles, Hoops, Heading, Rice, Tobacco, Naval Stores, and in fact every other kind of article which by law is admitted into the Colony. Now as the passage to St Thomas* is sometimes as long as Sixty days and seldom less than thirty, the freights enormous, with double Port charges &c, the temptation of gain, or necessity must be great indeed, to induce men to continue a trade under such circumstances. But in fact the Merchants of Jamaica with all these disadvantages find it more to their interest to continue it than to trade with the Baltic, notwithstanding all that may be said to the contrary by theorists and enemies of America in England & Elsewhere.

The

F Flour, corn

F Flour, corn meal Peas, Beans, Bean

* except English vessels, with the productions of the U States

John M Souffront arrived there the other day, that has made him Twelve Safe voyages; She is only 78 tons, and has brought from the coast 212 souls at a time!! Souffront is a Frenchman tho a citizen of the U.S. has an American Partner and his Establishment is called an american House.

Commission

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King gives
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commercial
ferences between
U.S. & G. Brit.
regards Colo-
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he making
that Slave
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ssel called
Anna Parnes,
going to one John,

The Colonies are american Islands and it has been so ordained by nature that they should be dependent for their wants at least (if not otherwise) on the US and from which they will (in Spite of Parliamentary acts or orders in Council) continue to receive them directly or indirectly. I shall notify my arrival to you from St Bartholomew, or at Antigua, and endeavour to place before you at one view the whole of my observations in as clear & distinct a manner as I am capable. In the mean time

I have the Honor to be,
With great respect,
Sir,
Your obedient & most humble Servant
(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison.

To The Honorable
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington.

St Bartholomew 12th June 1828

Sir

I had the honor on the 4th to notify to you my arrival here on the 2d inst; the State of mind I was in then did not permit me to address you on any thing connected with my late mission and after an examination of my different report to you from the various colonies, I now find little more to add to them. I shall however feel it my duty when at leisure to review the whole of my correspondence and as I have stated in former letters, place them and my additional remarks, which I may make, before you.

While lying off the Island of St Thomas I

was informed by my confidential agent there, that four Guineamen were fitting out in the Port and there can be no doubt that some of our citizens are interested, the difficulty however of proving the facts on Individuals in the U States (as the busines is managed by agents) where alone our laws can reach them, are great.

I called at St Eustatia also on my way here, then I found two or three prizes, and as many Privateers under the Buenos Ayrean flag, not one of which had ever been in the country, and of course the most of Pirates. their commissions being manufactured in Baltimore.

The scenes carried on at that Island as I learnt from Mr. Hollingsworth (who holds the appointment of Consul, but not acknowledged) and what I myself saw, beggars all description. Our citizens trading there have no one to protect them, and are alarmed beyond measure, as yet no one has ever seen an Individual composing a part of crews of captured vessels and what they do with them, God only knows.

At that place all the Guineamen receive their papers, which sometimes cost as much as $1000, & there were several in port. Our merchant vessels can scarce keep a man on board, they being seduced, either by the Guineamen or Privateers.

It is the case also here, as there are at this moment one Privateer fitting out, and a schooner belonging to the celebrated John Gooding of Baltimore (who is now in this Island) which I presume is either for a Guineaman or Privateer likewise. He has one at this moment in St Martins, but was off this place the other day, and driven away

* Although this Government affords me any assistance it can to arrest them.

away by an English Frigate. Mr Gooding's share of a Prize Guineaman* taken by one of his Privateers lately, amounted to $ 30.000. He has taken the Protection of this Government, but how far that can shield him from the offended laws of his Country, which make the traffic in Slaves, a capital crime, I know not. All my fellow citizens engaged in lawful commerce here, most earnestly beseech me to request that a light vessel of War should be sent here, that She might look into, and visit the neutral Islands (of which this is one) every eight or ten days, which I myself think necessary. As the new duty on Rum will be a great inducement to defraud the revenue, which has already been done to an alarming extent in certain Sections of the Country (of which I have already indicated to the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury) It would be advisable to have Mr Hollingsworth recognized at St Eustatius and compel every master of a vessel arriving in the U States from the Colonies to produce a certified Manifest of their Cargoes to the Collector (as English vessels invariably do wherever the Government has Consuls) which would effectually prevent Smuggling—

* The slaves are generally sold to Speculators from Martenique Guadeloupe, but principally to the latter

In order that you may form some idea how and in what manner it is carried on & the facility with which it is done (in the two lower Counties of Virginia, North Hampton and Accomack) I beg leave to inform you that a Schooner laden with rum, prepares a certain number of casks, by lashing them toge

ther

ther, which in the cant language of Smugglers is called bridling, and as they run along the coast and up the rivers, drop these casks overboard at different places, until the whole cargo is out, having signals and an understanding with their friends who pick it up. Colonels, Mayors, captains and Magistrates are concerned in this business; therefore detection is rare; and if any poor man is suspected of giving information, he is threatened with loss of property or castigation, and to escape which is obliged to fly, but is sometimes sent away.- this happens to free coloured people or Indians. Instances have occurred when some of them have been lowered out in the middle of the Chesapeak in a canoe, and left there. I have no other view in making you acquainted with these circumstances, but the interest of my country, and to check if possible, the demoralizing and iniquitous practice of Smuggling, which in all places where it is carried on leads to corruption and depravity of character.

The mission with which the president has been pleased to honor me being now closed and having been some months more in performing it than was contemplated in your Instructions, it becomes my duty to inform you, and to declare in the most Solemn manner that every exertion was made on my part to accomplish the object which the president may have had in view by the appointment within the time limited: and therefore flatter myself that you will be pleased to allow me to draw for my appointment up to the 2d inst, the day of my arrival here, and lest you should for one moment suppose me so base or infamous as to have made a gift or taken an advan

tage

tage of the confidence reposed in me by the Kindness of the President (which I shall always consider as the greatest honor) I have thought proper to send herewith the amount of my expenses during the tour, and when informed that you cannot live in any of the Islands for less than $7 pr day you will not by any means be surprised at the account for in those countries there are only two classes of boarding-houses: those visited by respectable people (where alone information can be had) and those where Sailors and negroes visit. Therefore relying as I trust with confidence on your justice, I shall in a few days draw on the Department for what may be due me, that is to say for two months and twenty four days, which amounts to $1038; but as I drew for $100 on the 8th of last april, the balance is $938. out of what I have already drawn I had on my arrival here $80, and remitted my family in Portsmouth N. H. at the early part of my tour $425. I need not say howmuch I shall be flattered if you would do me the honour to inform me if I have been so fortunate as to realize the expectations that were anticipated by the President. With profound respect, I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient and most
Humble Servant

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To The Honorable
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington.

Statement of expenses incurred by the undersigned on a tour of observation through the British West Indies, commenced on the 22d July past and closed the 2d June 1828. Viz:

To passage from Antigua to Barbados via Dominica & Lucia		$ 36 00
" Stores $ 28 Board & other expenses thro $ 240		268 00
To passage from Barbados to Demarara		36 00
" Stores $ 34 Board & other Expenses thro $ 188		220 00
To passage from Demarara to Barbados		36 00
" Stores . 34 Board & other expenses thro " 95		129 00
To passage from Barbados to Tobago		24 00
" Stores . 14 Board & Expenses thro " 48		62 00
To passage from Tobago to Trinidad		24 00
" Stores . 14.50. Board & expenses thro " 38		52 00
To passage from Trinidad to St. Vincents		30 00
" Stores . 18 Board & expense, thro " 80		98 00
To passage from St. Vincents to Grenada nothing:		
Board & Expense, thro		133 33
Copying letters fair.		64 00
To passage from Grenada to Jamaica		116 00
" Board and expenses thro		210 00
To passage from Jamaica to St. Thomas		100 00
" Stores		38 00
To passage from St. Thomas to St. Bartholomew		34 25
Gratification to Servants as is customary in different places		32 00
" to Stewards of vessels in which Stock passg.		20 00
Stationary of all kinds		25 00
To paid Clerks in the several Cust. Houses & the offices		96 00
" " Porters carrying baggage		11 60
" " Passport		36 00
" " Doctors Bill in Demarara		102 00
" " " " in Grenada		50 00
" " Medicines at different places		20 00
Washing		80 00
		$ 2183 17

I, Robert Monroe Harrison do declare upon my most sacred honor and in the presence of almighty God That the annexed Statement of expenses is much less than what was actually expended by me during the tour. In witness whereof I have affixed my Seal and Signature At St. Bartholomew the 12th day of June 1828

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

Consulate of the U States
St Bartholomew 19th June 1828.

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I drew on the department for the Sum of $200 on the 11th Inst in favor of my wife Mrs M. Harrison. I now do myself the honor to inform you that I have this day drawn for $738 (the exact balance due me) at ten days Sight in favor of Francis G. Tucker Esquire, which you will be pleased to give orders to be paid as soon as possible, this Gentleman having rendered me great Service at different times, it would be mortifying to my feelings should there be any delay whatever in the payment, independent of the injury I should sustain in my public character.— I have been induced to make these remarks in consequence of the proceedings of a certain committee. With profound respect I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your obedient & most humble Servant

(Signed) Robert Monroe Harrison

To The Honorable
Henry Clay
Secretary of State
Washington